

# Still Shining

THIS BALI BLUE 1964 356 SC  
HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN  
PCA EVENTS FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS.

STORY BY **DAVID MATHEWS** PHOTOS BY **MICHAEL ALAN ROSS**





# Chuck and Joyce Gladle's love affair with Porsche began more than 50 years ago at Watkins Glen,

when they watched diminutive 356s dice it up with Alfa Romeo Giuliettas, Austin-Healey Sprites, and Triumph TR4s. They knew then and there that they had to have a Porsche. “We loved that teardrop shape,” says Joyce. Returning home to Schenectady, New York, they soon found a 1956 Speedster 1600 on a used car lot. They decided to trade in their 1957 Karmann-Ghia and became Porsche owners.

**HOFFMAN MOTORS CORPORATION**  
Importers  
443 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

Make: **PORSCHE**  
Model: 1600 SC Coupe Serial No.: 217014  
Port of Entry: New York, NY  
Dealer's Name: Midtown Motor Imports, Ltd.  
Address: 801 Erie Blvd., E. Syracuse, NY  
City or Town at which it is to be delivered to dealer: New York, NY  
Method of Transportation: picked up by Dealer  
Suggested Retail Price P.O.E. \$ 4753.  
Suggested Handling & Preparation Charge \$ 50.  
Suggested Retail Price of Factory Fitted Accessories  
Special paint \$ 55.  
Total Suggested Retail Price P.O.E. \$ 4858.00

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State or local taxes (if any) and inland freight are not included. Issued in compliance with Automobile Disclosure Act July 7, 1958. Removing, altering or defacing this label is punishable by law.

The Speedster satisfied their need for speed, but they soon realized that it was not the most practical means of transportation. With a roof height on the short side of 50 inches, side curtains for windows, and an afterthought for a heater, it was not suited for New York's capital region, where it snows about 60 inches per year and winter temperatures rarely break freezing. Hmm.

Chuck and Joyce were led to their 1964 SC coupe by an advertisement in *Road and Track* magazine. Max Hoffman's New York dealership, Hoffman Motors, was offering new Porsches at come hither prices. “Do I have to travel to New York City to buy the car?” Chuck asked over the phone. “No,” was the answer. “You can order it through Midtown Motor Imports right there in Schenectady.”

That conversation cleared one hurdle but set the Gladles on course for another. Make that two. “Joyce's dad was a B-24 tail gunner during the war. And my dad worked for Chrysler Corporation.” Old school traditionalists with a bent toward American iron, the two men were beyond unhappy with Chuck and Joyce's decision to buy a new Porsche. “You could buy a new Cadillac for that kind of money,” said Chuck's dad.

**DESPITE PARENTAL OBJECTIONS,** Chuck and Joyce were determined to buy a new 356 SC and worked a trade on their Speedster. That SC would be the car of their dreams, a beautiful, special order Bali Blue (\$55) with a fawn interior.

Temptation did rear its head, however. On their way to pick up their Porsche, a 300SL roadster displayed at the local Mercedes-Benz dealership caused a temporary distraction. It was sleek, it was powerful, and it was beautiful, but the \$8,000 price tag was beyond their budget. They decided to stick with their original decision and went ahead with the Porsche purchase. Still, there were issues. Their car, a March 1964 build, arrived with a gray interior rather than tan. And the dealer installed the radio antenna on the right front fender instead of the left.

In the end, those minor differences mattered little. The Gladles loved their new Porsche, and their parents still invited the young couple to dinner on Sundays. With an additional \$7.95 for a Talbot side mirror, less \$800 for their Speedster, Chuck and Joyce shelled out \$4,074.85 for their new SC. Soon after they took possession of the car, they joined Porsche Club of America, thus begin-





A place for everything and everything in its place—a motto to which the Gladles adhere. The travel kit and the tool kit reflect regular use. Although not the color originally specified, the coupe's gray interior is a perfect complement to the Bali Blue exterior.



The fun stopped and the shouting began. Back in the car the argument escalated. Chuck blamed Joyce for not keeping track of the time, and Joyce blamed Chuck for, well, being Chuck. Joyce abruptly ended the discussion by plastering her hamburger, complete with ketchup, onions, and pickles, against the front of Chuck's shirt. Did they finish the rally? "Yeah, we finished, but we didn't do very well, and we didn't talk much after that," recalls Chuck. "In fact, she drove the rest of the rally. I just pointed." And pouted.

Perhaps it was the ride home from the hospital, or maybe it was the weekends accompanying their mom and dad to various PCA events, but both Gladle children developed into Porsche fanatics as well. The Gladles'

daughter, Caren, served as president of the Potomac Region in 2001 and is currently a National Driving Instructor. Chuck Jr. is an avid driver in vintage and club racing.

Not one to sit still, Chuck Sr. also races, having embarked on that venture five years ago, at the ripe old age of 71. "It was a dream come true," says Chuck. A 1970 914-6 was his weapon of choice, until he sold it and obtained something more potent—a 1987 944 Turbo.

**DESPITE 52 YEARS** of hard driving in all kinds of weather, the 356 SC still shines as it did that September day in 1964 when Chuck and Joyce drove it off the lot. It is impossible not to smile when looking at this Porsche as it glistens in the early morning rain at the 2016 Parade



at Jay Peak. The car squats low on 185/65R15 Comp T/As. Open the trunk and you'll find a stained tool kit containing its full complement of tools, along with a travel kit full of spare springs, gaskets, and intake and exhaust valves, just in case. The Parade Concours judges awarded the Gladle 356 SC first place in Preservation Class PS01F, as well as the overall Preservation Group Award. There was not an argument from anyone in the crowd.

But, as one might expect, Chuck and Joyce were not satisfied competing in only one event during Parade week. They also participated in the autocross (where Joyce notched Chuck by ten seconds) and finished fourth in class in the TSD Rally. No burgers were thrown.

Not only competitors but also volunteers, Chuck and Joyce did their part at Jay Peak. Joyce spent a good deal of time ringing the cash register at the Goodie Store, and Chuck helped in a number of areas. "We are at that stage in life when we want to give back," says Joyce. The fact of the matter is that they've been giving back ever since they joined PCA. Joyce served as president of the Central New York (CNY) Region for six consecutive years and was recognized as PCA's Enthusiast of the Year in 2011. Chuck is CNY Region's historian.

Chuck and Joyce Gladle's Bali Blue 356 SC has been a part of their lives for more than 50 years. These PCA members and their car have quite a story to tell—and it still has several chapters to go. ☉

**Anathema to most 356 owners, early morning raindrops glisten jewel-like on this 1964 356. À la Evel Knievel, the Gladle youngsters regularly joined in early Porsche mayhem.**

