



Interview - Exceeding Expectations

Interview with Manny Alban, Past President of the Porsche Club of America

Manny, here we are at the International Porsche Days in Zell am See-Kaprun. You're here with members of the Porsche Club of America to pick up their „GTS Club Coupe – 60 Years Porsche Club of America“. Tell me about this special anniversary edition and how this trip came about.

Manny Alban: Actually, everything began at the unveiling of the 911 Club Coupe for the anniversary of the worldwide Porsche Club in 2012, when we were invited to Stuttgart for the Club's 60th anniversary. I counted up the years in my head and realised that our Club would be celebrating our anniversary in three years. During the event I asked Paul Gregor, who is in charge of Community Management in America, what the Porsche Club of America had to do to get a Club Coupe for its anniversary. This led to a series of meetings and conferences between PCA, PCNA and Sandra Siegloch, the Head of Porsche Community Management. In 2014, when things started getting serious, there were talks with Porsche Exclusive and we took the decisions on the colour and the equipment. What we wanted was a vehicle that you couldn't just buy off the shelf or put together yourself. A vehicle with its own unique set of equipment that you can only buy if you are a PCA Club member. The biggest challenge was the colour.

Porsche Club News: Was it only specified that the vehicle would be blue?

Manny Alban: Blue is the colour of our Club logo. And the American flag has blue and red on it. Anyone who knows me can tell you that I'm colour-blind. I can't see either red or green, so I didn't like the idea of a red car at all (laughs). But I liked blue. So we decided on blue. Porsche Exclusive suggested designing a very special blue for the Club. They took our grille badge to Germany and compared it to different shades of blue. Acid Blue was the closest to it, but Exclusive made it one or two degrees darker and came up with a new, unique colour especially for us. And now we call this colour "Club Blau".

Porsche Club News: When did you see the colour for the first time on a vehicle?

Manny Alban: That was exciting, because we hadn't seen the colour on a car until it was revealed in June at the PCA Porsche Parade. We'd seen it on drawings, samples and pictures, but not on the car. Before the unveiling, I took a quick peep under the cover to have a look. And I loved it. It's great! Everyone just loves the colour.

Porsche Club News: How did you get the idea to pick up the vehicles in Zuffenhausen and take them to Zell am See?

Manny Alban: For the anniversary, we posted some pictures from the early days of our Club. And in the fifties, when the Club was still starting out, our members flew across the Atlantic on the first long-haul airliner, the legendary Super Constellation. They landed in Stuttgart and plant employees were waiting for them there with the vehicles at the airport. Then they met Ferry Porsche, went for dinner and celebrated their delivery. So we thought: wouldn't it be great to revive that, even if it is on a slightly smaller scale? We also wanted pictures of our delivery, like they had in the fifties. I think Porsche AG, PCA and PCNA did a great job together – and added a few extra features. This weekend has been a dream come true. Paul Gregor, Mathias Menner and Sandra Siegloch organised the entire delivery event and the trip to Zell am See and made sure it all went right. They did a phenomenal job. "Exceeding expectations" — as a brand and a manufacturer, whatever Porsche does exceeds your expectations.

Porsche Club News: The GTS Club Coupe is a special vehicle for a special occasion. But is it something special for you as Past President?

Manny Alban: I've loved Porsche ever since I was 14 years old. If you had told me then that one day I'd play a small part in creating a special edition, I wouldn't have believed you. Now, when I look at it on the stage at the gala evening, when I see how many people were involved in making this dream come true, when I see just what came out of this little idea, and when I see how many Club members wanted to buy the car, I'm really moved.

Porsche Club News: Could it be said that the vehicle is also a sign of the close links between the Club and Porsche?

Manny Alban: Absolutely. It stands for our close relationship. We are an independent Club, but we work very closely together with Porsche. We don't see it as a business relationship, but as a genuine friendship. Our philosophy is that if Porsche is not successful, then neither can we be. We're pleased that Porsche is becoming constantly more successful, and even winning at Le Mans. The more success, the more people stay in the Club, and the more new people join. And Porsche has just hit a home run.

Porsche Club News: Porsche Community Management came up with an exclusive programme for you to accompany the delivery. Tell us about it.

Manny Alban: Well, we went to pick up the vehicles in Zuffenhausen, and one highlight was a visit to the paint shop, which is not normally open to visitors. The employees there knew that a GTS Club Coupe was there waiting to be sprayed. We waited there for 10 minutes without knowing what was coming next. And then came the surprise when they told us that the next vehicle was a GTS Club Coupe. It was perfect timing. Our owners saw a GTS Club Coupe being sprayed. And once again

Porsche exceeded all expectations. But it was a great pleasure for all of us to meet the Porsche family. Hans-Peter Porsche and Dr. Wolfgang Porsche are so welcoming and at ease with us Club members. And the Head of Sales, Bernhard Maier, who really is a busy man, took time for us and the vehicles. We really appreciate that.

Porsche Club News: How do you like the International Porsche Days?

Manny Alban: It's fascinating to see how we're all infected with the "Porsche bug", as I like to say. You never get over it. And whatever language we speak, we all share the same enthusiasm. There's the same friendship here that we have at home. And we were treated and welcomed so pleasantly. All we can say is thank you, it was really lovely to be here in Zell.

Porsche Club News: And the highlight for you?

Manny Alban: There are so many. The vehicle we saw being sprayed, the tour with Hans-Peter Porsche at the "TraumWerk", the two trips up the Großglockner, meeting Dr. Wolfgang Porsche on the Schüttgut estate. I've been telling our Club members that when they're back in the States, it'll all seem like it was a dream.

Porsche Club News: Manny, hand on heart, was it also a successful farewell to your presidency of the Porsche Club of America?

Manny Alban: I'll never forget this. One day people won't remember me any more. But whenever I see the GTS Club Coupes, I'll remember that I played a small part in the fact that they were produced, the fact that they exist. Yes, and that's cool.

Manny Alban! Many thanks for this interview with Porsche Club News.

📄 Exceeding Expectations – a very special trip | 📄 Interview - Exceeding Expectations

📄 Home, Sweet Home – The International Porsche Days Zell am See–Kaprun

📄 Interview - Home, Sweet Home | 📄 Moveable Feast – Worldwide

📄 IAA Porsche Club Evening 2015: Mobility connects.

📄 Special brew – Porsche 356 Club Deutschland anniversary event

📄 Clubs report for Clubs – Porsche Club Unterfranken

📄 Porsche Club Singapore Drive of the Year (DOTY) | 📄 A very British celebration

📄 "Porsche is a fascinating brand. It inspires people." | 📄 Bavarian standards

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* These data were obtained using the Euro 5 measurement method (715/2007/EC and 692/2008/EC) in the NEDC (New European Driving Cycle) with standard equipment. The information does not refer to an individual vehicle and is not part of the offer, but is simply provided so that comparisons can be made between different types of vehicle. Further, up to date information on the individual vehicles can be obtained from your Porsche Centre.

Consumption figures were obtained on the basis of standard equipment. Special equipment may affect consumption and performance.