

Research Briefing for Criminal Complaints Against Mark Wellington Johnston

Compiled by Daniel G. Beckett, Jr. for submission to the FBI, the Michigan State Police Computer Crimes Division, and the Waterford Township (MI) Police Department

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Abstract

This document was prepared by Daniel B. Beckett, Jr. (of Plymouth MI) with assistance from Mark Berman (of Malta). Mr. Beckett and Mr. Berman have summarized and collated this report from information collected from and submitted by victims of Mark Johnston *et al.* Beckett and Berman compiled the information through a variety of communication mediums, including face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, email exchanges, and so-called “private messages” on a variety of internet-based discussion forums. The intent of this document is to present compelling evidence that Mr. Johnston systematically engaged in a pattern of felonious behavior whereby he perpetrated acts of larceny and fraud against more than 30 individuals or businesses in at least 16 states and 8 foreign countries.

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Summary of Allegations

- Committed larceny and/or fraud against members of several Porsche- and car-related internet-based discussion forums
- Committed larceny and/or fraud against automotive suppliers local to Southeast Michigan (Diamond Racing, Holbrook Racing)
- Specifically targeted overseas victims (Australia, Norway, Estonia, Malta, Canada, UK, and two servicemen in Iraq) although he victimized members in at least 16 states as well (AL, CT, CO, FL, IN, IL, MI, MN, MO, NE, NH, NY, SC, TX, VA, WA)
- Perpetrated acts of “Uttering and Publishing”, a felony offense, which includes writing bad checks and credit card fraud
- Perpetrated acts of “Wire Fraud”, a federal offense, which includes fraudulent transactions over state and federal lines
- Perpetrated acts of larceny which includes the improper seizure of goods
- Masqueraded under a number of aliases in all of the aforementioned forums, eBay and PayPal as detailed below (note that Mr. Johnston may have used – and may still be using – a variety of other aliases which may remain undiscovered)
- Used the aforementioned forums, eBay and PayPal to establish trust by delivering goods and services in small amounts. Then he would approach the individual “out-of-band” of those environments (e.g. using in-person meetings, email or phone numbers exchanged during previous transactions) and set them up for larger fraud. Typical examples included barter deals to provide services in exchange for access to body panels, racing components, or engine parts which he claimed he wanted to duplicate and resell under the fraudulent business monikers including “Fossil Fuel”, “Hausbrauen Motoren”, “HBM”, and “Nemesis Motorsports”.
- Individual instances of fraud are relatively small, most in the range of <\$500, but there are some cases in the range of \$1000-\$2000
- Exact amount of larceny and/or fraud is unknown; best estimates indicate that it is at least \$18,152.72, but probably surpasses \$20,000 during a four year span from July 2003 through October 2007.

Identities

Legal Name

- Mark Wellington Johnston

Known Aliases

- Archibald Nemesis, Tony Richards, Sid (posing as “CFO” of Hausbrauen)

Known Internet Aliases

924board.org

- my924gtc (<http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=1465>)
- hausbrauen (<http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2119>)
- nemesis (<http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2672>)
- bullet924 (<http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2575>)

forums.RennList.com

- hausbrauen (<http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=42210>)
- nemesis924 (<http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=44112>)

forums.PelicanParts.com

- unholycow (<http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=51262>)
- my924gtc (<http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=24373>)
- hausbrauen (<http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=32041>)
- stuttgartmark (<http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=21798>)
- nemesis (<http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=38627>)

eBay

- unholycowsandmore (<http://myworld.ebay.com/unholycowsandmore>)
- hausbrauen (<http://myworld.ebay.com/hausbrauen>)
- nemesis924 (<http://myworld.ebay.com/nemesis924>)
- 924_007 (http://myworld.ebay.com/924_007)
- Fossilfuel (<http://myworld.ebay.com/fossilfuel>)
- hish2ocoolness (has been removed)

PayPal / E-mail

- unholycowsandmore@hotmail.com (recent paypal verified address)
- stuttgartparts@netzero.com
- hausbrauen924@aol.com
- stuttgartmark@aol.com
- fossilfuelvp@aol.com
- Bullet924@hotmail.com

- archnemesi924@aol.com
- x3m944@cfl.rr.com

Photobucket

- my924gtc (<http://smg.photobucket.com/albums/v473/my924gtc/>)

Flat-6 / The Autobahn

- my924gtc (<http://www.theautobahn.com/forum/member.php?u=4455>)
- hausbrauen (<http://www.theautobahn.com/forum/member.php?userid=9017>)

Cardomain

- my924gtc (<http://www.cardomain.com/id/my924GTC>)
- mygroup4 (<http://www.cardomain.com/ride/661306>)

Grassroots Motorsports

- HBM (<http://grassrootsmotorsports.com/board/profile.php?id=5075>)

PorscheClubGBForum

- my924gtc (<http://www.porscheclubgbforum.com/showprofile.asp?memid=4419>)
- NEMESIS (<http://www.porscheclubgbforum.com/showprofile.asp?memid=9089>)

Porsche Hybrids

- my924gtc (<http://www.porschehybrids.com/php/memberlist.php?u=127>)

Hotrodders.com

- hausbrauen (<http://hotrodders.com/forum/members/hausbrauen.html>)
- 933 DP Man (<http://hotrodders.com/forum/members/933%2Bdp%2Bman.html>)

Roadfly

- my924gtc
(http://forums.roadfly.com/forums/porsche/porsche_944_924_968/5553727-1.html)

R1MessageNet

- hausbrauen (<http://www.r1messenet.com/forums/member.php?u=293>)

XceedSpeed

- hausbrauen (<http://xceedspeed.com/forums/member.php?u=2528>)

Yahoo / AIM / Other IM

- stuttgartmark (AIM), hausbrauen924 (AIM), mwj_007 (yahoo), Bullet924@hotmail.com (MSN)

Personal Details

Birth Date

Note: as posted on PelicanParts & Hotrodders.com Profiles

- January 20, 1972

Current Cell Phone (as of March 2008)

- Cell phone: (248) 707 9134

Known addresses:

- 6837 Williams Lake Road, Waterford MI (current as of March 2008)
 - Mr. David Boris is the owner of this property and Mr. Johnston's current landlord. I spoke with him via telephone on Mon 19 March 2008 and confirmed that Mr. Johnston is the current tenant in Mr. Boris' property. Mr. Boris may be reached at 248.330.2255 (M) or 248.676.2015 (W)
- 5111 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford MI (ca. 2006-2007)
- 3324 Healy Street, Waterford MI (ca. 2005)

Known Michigan License Plates

- "SICK931" : 1980-1982 Porsche 924 Turbo, blue with white stripes
- "931CHIC" : 1977-1982 Porsche 924 (not known if this is a turbo or not, but given the designation "931", it probably is a turbo); red with classic Porsche "Martini" striping
- "MOFO931" : unknown if this plate is assigned to an actual vehicle
- Also owns and drives a 2007 Jeep Commander, black, plate unknown

Known Bank Account Information

- Account holder: Rhonda Jonston, Routing # 272471548 Account # 8867382210
Main Branch Location: TCF National Bank Ann Arbor, MI

Businesses

- AZDeck, 3324 Healy St., Waterford, MI 48328, 248-787-0808, Email: stuttgartparts@netzero.com, Contact: Mark Johnston (<http://www.deckorators.com/Contractors.asp?Search=Search&ss=MI>)
- Fossil Fuel (no established business address)
- Hausbrauen Moteren, a.k.a. HBM, 14245 Rutgers Ave, Orlando FL

Business Associates

- Wesley H. Stansbury
 - Used internet aliases of X3M944 & ESC944, possibly others
 - Possible address: 31 W Grant St, Orlando FL
 - Possible address: 14245 Rutgers Ave, Orlando FL
 - Last known phone numbers: 407-242-2060 (cell), 407-658-2441 (land)

- Last known email address: esc944@yahoo.com
- Chris Olson
 - Hiller Road, Waterford MI
 - Convicted of “Improper use of a motor vehicle” related to the apparent “theft” of my 1980 Porsche 924 Turbo (VIN 93A0151434) on 04 Jan 2007

Reference

Highlights

- Pursued civil action against Mr. Johnston on behalf of myself and Mr. Mark Berman of Malta. We each issued demand letters, got signed legal settlement agreements dated 18 Sep 2007, but have not been successful in recovering all of the stolen parts and money. Mr. Johnston subsequently moved in an attempt to disappear, but resurfaced recently. I was contacted unsolicited by a 924board.org member and given his new address listed above. Documentation of current whereabouts, legal agreements, etc. is here:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/ideola1124/DocsReMJCO>
- Chronology of my association with Mr. Johnston
<http://924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=209892>
- Exhaustive Documentation of Mr. Johnston's Wrong-Doing
<http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=23316>
- Partial list of known, uncompensated victims
<http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=193989#193989>

Exhaustive List of all Known Victims (in chronological order)

1. user: cpt_koolbeenz, CO USA
 - a. date: 30 July 2003
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=716>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=8374>
2. user : D Hook, NE USA
 - a. date: 22 Jan 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=151>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=14029>
3. user : crackmonkey, TX USA
 - a. date: 05 Feb 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=945>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=14201>
4. user : caseyjones, AL USA
 - a. date: 14 May 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/privmsg.php?mode=post&u=1918>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=15345>
5. user: Chrenan, AB Canada
 - a. date: 22 May 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=456>
 - c. complaint: sent in PM to Street Legal (924board)
<http://www.924board.org/privmsg.php?folder=savebox&mode=read&p=59181>
6. user : skemcin, IL USA
 - a. date: 10 July 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=895>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=16051>
7. user : Toydriver, TX USA

- a. date: 22 Oct 2005
- b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2089>
- c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=17112>
8. user: 77yellow924, MI USA
 - a. date: 24 Oct 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=1320>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=133954#133954>
9. user : Applebit, MN USA
 - a. date: sometime in 2005
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=293>
 - c. complaint: sent privately via email
10. user : Ozzie, Queensland Australia
 - a. date: 27 Feb 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=1813>
 - c. complaint : <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=145532#145532>
11. user: Carl Troy, SC USA
 - a. date: 03 Apr 2006
 - b. profile: (not a forum member; 944Cup from Rennlist put him in touch)
 - c. complaint: purchased fiberglass bumper for 944 that was never delivered
12. user: steeny, Melbourne Australia
 - a. date: 11 Apr 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2227>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=150410#150410>
13. user : Billa, NY USA
 - a. date: 30 Apr 2006
 - b. profile : <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=414>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=18927>
14. user: TMB-Racing, WA USA
 - a. date: 25 May 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=279>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=64903#64903>
 - d. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=8665>
 - e. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=19202>
15. user: Rich Sandor, BC Canada
 - a. date: 31 May 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2329>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=19250>
16. user: Diamond Racing, MI USA
 - a. date 05 June 2006
 - b. profile: Diamond Racing Products, 23003 Diamond Dr., Clinton Twp MI 48035
 - c. complaint: wrote bad check for ~\$3500 for custom piston order
17. user: Holbrook Racing, MI USA
 - a. date: June-July 2006
 - b. profile: Holbrook Racing, 31831 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 4150
 - c. complaint: order block work, removed pistons from premises, never paid
18. user: 944-LT1, IN USA

- a. date: 11 June 2006
 - b. Michael Kinney (full address & transaction details in Street Legal gmail)
 - c. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=26976>
 - d. complaint: sent in PM to Street Legal (rennlist)
<http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/private.php?do=showpm&pmid=1205130>
19. user : shikzachaser, MO USA
- a. date: 07 July 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2643>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=167545#167545>
 - d. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=19603>
 - e. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=161932#161932>
 - f. complaint : <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=189394#189394>
20. user: Jim Clark, FL USA
- a. date: 10 July 2006
 - b. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=20119>
 - c. complaint: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showthread.php?t=285252>
21. user : osandlan, Norway
- a. date: 06 Aug 2006
 - b. profile : <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2685>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=161158#161158>
22. user: gla924sem, MI USA
- a. 11 Aug 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=247>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=19962>
23. user: 911T, unknown location
- a. date: 29 Aug 2006
 - b. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=24995>
 - c. complaint:
<http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=3357197&postcount=14>
24. user: Raceboy (have full contact info in personal email), Estonia
- a. date: 24 Oct 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=1208>
 - c. complaint: sent in PM to Street Legal (924board)
<http://www.924board.org/privmsg.php?folder=savebox&mode=read&p=59259>
25. user : leadfoot (stuart, stucor@hotmail.com), Melbourne Australia
- a. date: 15 Dec 2006
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=375>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=21002>
26. user: Tigger937 (tigger0937@yahoo.com), unknown
- a. date: 01 Mar 2007
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=1278>
 - c. complaint: sent in PM to Street Legal (924board)
<http://www.924board.org/privmsg.php?folder=savebox&mode=read&p=59644>
27. user: tinman944, NH USA
- a. date: 19 Mar 2007

- b. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=1019>
 - c. complaint: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showthread.php?t=338585>
 - d. Mark claims he bought a 931 dry sump oil pan from him in an email to Sparky dated 01 Mar 2007 9:50 AM
 - e. Sent PM via Rennlist on Thu 20 Mar 2008 requesting any add'l info
28. Justin Taylor (contact thru Street Legal gmail) TX USA
- a. date: 15 May 2007
 - b. Profile: vwgroupie07@yahoo.com
 - c. Sent details of transaction to SLLT gmail account
29. user: RC / RC924, Coffs Harbor Australia
- a. date: 17 July 2007
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=3210>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=22684>
 - d. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=54922>
 - e. complaint: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showthread.php?t=366212>
30. user: jgporsche VA USA
- a. date: 20 July 2007
 - b. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=36525>
 - c. <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=4384106&postcount=3>
 - d. Referenced in email to Mark Berman dated Wed 21 Feb 2007 7:41 AM
 - e. Sent email inquiry regarding disposition of parts referenced in above thread/email via Rennlist at 8:20 AM EDT 20 Mar 2008
 - f. Rec'd email reply 20 Mar 2008; victimized as well
31. user: yellowline, CT USA
- a. date: 20 July 2007
 - b. profile : <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=33178>
 - c. complaint: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=4384296&postcount=5>
32. user: Guns951, Iraq????
- a. date: 25 July 2007
 - b. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=32700>
 - c. complaint: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showthread.php?t=367302>
33. user : sparky, Malta
- a. date: 20 Aug 2007
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=330>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?t=23032>
34. user: daveo, UK
- a. date: 23 Sep 2007
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2083>
 - c. complaint: <http://www.924board.org/viewtopic.php?p=194486#194486>
35. user: ideola, MI USA
- a. date: 15 Oct 2007
 - b. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=1554>
 - c. complaint: failed to deliver on settlement agreement date 18 Sep 2007
36. user: OutOfTheBox, South Africa
- a. profile: <http://www.924board.org/profile.php?mode=viewprofile&u=2470>

- b. complaint: unspecified...alluded to by Peter in Australia
- 37. user: jpab924
 - a. profile: <http://www.924board.org/privmsg.php?mode=post&u=163>
 - b. complaint: unspecified

Partial List of Other Known Contacts

1. user: WizPorsche944
 - a. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=25095>
 - b. <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=4386067&postcount=12>
 - c. Sent PM via Rennlist on Thu 20 Mar 2008; rec'd reply: no complaint
2. user: TechnoDuck
 - a. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=14516>
 - b. <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=4397623&postcount=12>
 - c. Sent PM via Rennlist on Thu 20 Mar 2008; no reply
3. user: 944Cup
 - a. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=7900>
 - b. <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=3279013&postcount=10>
 - c. <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/showpost.php?p=3290695&postcount=13>
 - d. Sent PM via Rennlist on Thu 20 Mar 2008 requesting info on add'l victims; rec'd reply with referral to Mr. Carl Troy of SC
4. user: moorepower
 - a. profile: <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=47526>
 - b. offered assistance via PM to Street Legal (rennlist)
<http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/private.php?do=showpm&pmid=1204929> (substantiates "hish2ocoolness" ebay id, which is no longer viewable at eBay)
 - c. Not a victim; no useful information to add
5. user: evil 944t (rennlist)
 - a. Davidmcgrath13@yahoo.com, Dave McGrath, owner of Custom Engineered Performance, <http://forums.rennlist.com/rennforums/member.php?u=12448>
 - b. Sent email to SLLT gmail account offering assistance
<http://mail.google.com/mail/#inbox/11538ca4b6685fb8>
 - c. Spoke to Dave over the telephone in late 2007. No need to contact further at this point, as he had no useful information to add
6. user: racerbvd (Pelican)
 - a. profile: <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=3483>
 - b. <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/showthread.php?t=394057>
 - c. Exchanged PMs via Pelican 19-20 Mar 2008, didn't transact
7. user: tubbedf100 (Pelican)
 - a. profile: <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=47089>
 - b. <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/showthread.php?t=394057>
 - c. Sent PM via Pelican 19 Mar 2008; no response
8. user: prooutlaw (Pelican)
 - a. profile: <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=7250>
 - b. <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/showthread.php?t=394057>
 - c. Sent PM via Pelican 20 Mar 2008
 - d. Rec'd reply 20 Mar 2008, didn't transact

9. user: harryrick (Pelican)
 - a. profile: <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/member.php?u=46658>
 - b. <http://forums.pelicanparts.com/showthread.php?t=394057>
 - c. Sent PM via Pelican 20 Mar 2008; didn't transact