#### August 2008





Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

### **RE-Port**

By Regional Executive, Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

Wow, what a perfect weekend for a race. For those of you that attended our BIG, BIG, BIG, PDX/IT-Spectacular at Mid Ohio the weekend of August 8-10 you know what I mean. The F&C group ordered in perfect weather and all of our hard working volunteers made sure everyone had a great time. I have received a multitude of personal, email and phone compliments from the volunteers, participants, competitors and even the board of Great Lakes Division. I did not have one negative comment the whole weekend on the PDX or the IT/Spectacular other than a guy whose class was not invited. I suggested he organize his fellow racers so he can be invited next year.

I tried to speak personally to everyone at the Saturday night party and all I heard was, "I've never had so much fun with a car", "What A Great Event", "the Cincinnati Region people are so nice and put on fun events", "your events are so well organized", "we love coming to Cincinnati Region races". What a great party to really enjoy what the club is about-"the people"!

As I walked around the paddock and spoke to officials, workers and competitors on Saturday and Sunday, I heard more of the same. PDX instructors asked to be invited back; volunteers all were very positive on the way they were treated and the competitors love the extra track time and qualifying race format.

Even though we couldn't get online registration for the PDX closed in time and we had a large number late arrivals, everyone was taken care of and many commented on how well organized we were. Maybe SCCA is starting to lose our reputation of being hard to work with and exclusionary. We held the national record for participants at a PDX last year at 107 and we blew that away this year with over 175. The Cincinnati region is the envy of SCCA when it comes to putting on these important events that provide an inexpensive, low risk way of introducing road racing.

The IT Spectacular brought in a bunch more racers including a large formula contingent, had a huge number of door prizes and happy sponsors, an incredible driver packet and a very well run event. Our Race Committee again did an incredible job of pleasing the competitors and the large number of volunteers. Everything was well organized from the schedule to the party to the photo set for the race winners.

We should all be proud of our huge success. Special thanks to both the officials and committees who put hundreds of hours into recruiting participants, doing the accounting, creating the documents, answering hundreds of emails and questions, working their specialties and most importantly treating the entrants and volunteers as customers. A board member even got an email stating our events are second only to the Run-Offs®. We can easily be better than that next year.

Chairman of the Board Scott Tengen 513-702-1969 scott@tengen.com Regional Executive Bill Niemeyer, Jr. 513-683-9244 niemeyer65@hotmail.com Assistant Regional Executive EB Lunken 513-831-9660 Secretary Chipp Swindler 513-861-4416 rupich@fuse.net Treasurer Rick Barger 513-777-3834 rickbarger@cinci.rr.com Member-at-Large Mark Lee 816-210-0141 mark.lee@us.dunnhumby.com Member-at-Large Doug Duddey 513-231-7099 dduddey@cinci.rr.com Member-at-Large/PDX Chair Kurt Niemeyer cincypdx08@yahoo.com Member-at-Large Brian Walker 513-531-0703 briax7@yahoo.com Member-at-Large/Membership Chair Jerry Cabe 513-671-3839 friar\_10bsp@fuse.net Member-at-Large/ Race Chairman Todd Cholmondeley 513-528-9217 tefkatt@aol.com Chief Registrar Deborah McCrea 513-321-0432 deborah.mccrea@gmail.com Web Master Matt Reeder 513-321-2706 cincyscca@gmail.com Competition Chair Bret Frank 937-855-2723 BretLFrank@US.Schneider.com Solo Chair

# Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, September 2

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Andy Stanford

Eric Adams

Rally Chair

Send articles to Jill
 and Allen Tomey at
 jtomey@cinci.rr.com

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#### Minutes of the July 15, 2008 Meeting of the Cincinnati Region Sports Car Club of America

Board members in attendance were Bill Niemeyer Jr., E.B. Lunken, Rick Barger, Chipp Swindler, Jerry Cabe, Todd Cholmondeley, Doug Duddey, Kurt Niemeyer and Brian Walker. Also in attendance were Andy Stanford, Paul Williams and Bryan Schaffer.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Niemeyer Jr.

On the motion of Jerry Cabe, with Todd Cholmondeley seconding, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Rick Barger presented the treasurer's report. On the motion of Chipp Swindler, with Brian Walker seconding, the report was approved.

In old business, Bill Niemeyer, Jr. informed the board the previously discussed dates of May 16-17 were available at Bluegrass Motorsports Club were again available. On the motion of Chipp Swindler, with Brian Walker seconding, the board voted to have the region ask BGMC reserve May 15-17, 2009, and to ask the Central Kentucky Region for permission to have an event in their region that weekend. In addition, Bill distributed to the board copies of a letter from John Peterson detailing his thoughts on preparations for SCCA events at BGMC.

Brian Walker informed the board that 20 new member contacts were made at the British Car Show.

Andy Stanford gave the solo report. He is still working with contacts at the DHL facility in Wilmington. The solo committee continues to look for new venues.

Todd Cholmondeley gave the race report. There are a total of 97 entries, with 13 in the new classes. The garages are sold out.

Kurt Niemeyer gave the PDX report. He informed the board Scott Tengen would not be able to serve as registrar. In addition, there were problems with DLB that are being worked out. Rick Barger told the board that there were 70 online entries.

On the motion of Kurt Niemeyer, with E.B. Lunken seconding, the meeting was adjourned.



### **Eight WAS The Date**



The 8-8-8 PDX is history and it was one heck of an event with a record turnout for this type of event again. I have to thank all that participated in making this event a success, many Cincy Region members spent their Friday having a great time at Mid-Ohio. volunteer officials had a lot on their hands and performed admirably. The registration crew including Team Tengen, Starla McCauly, Margaret Kuhnell, Jill and Allison Tomey and Denise Mustain (back after a number of years) worked with blinding speed to get all the participants into the track. The tech crew really had their program together and made Tech a quick and friendly experience; thanks to Tim, Bobbi, Susie and Theo Ross along with Mike and Marilee Hamiton, and Barry Baker for doing an exemplary job. The Stewards; John Pfetzing and Dave Howard had a lot to work with and kept everyone cool and on track for maximum time. Bill Niemeyer, Jr. and dozens of instructors helped over 80 novices get comfortable and quicker throughout the day; again many members that have been away from the Club for various reasons made the time to come and help. The Grid Marshals, Chipp Swindler and Pat Rupich, also had a huge challenge to keep the event moving with so many cars. They did a great job and each group got four on track sessions!

This year we had several groups join us for the fun; Bob Miller and the Ferrari Club, www.fca-ohio.org, brought great cars and instructors including Michael Kelly. Bill Neal included this as a stop for his 10/10ths Motorsports group brought over 30 cars www.10/10thsmotorports.com. Forgeline Wheels rolled into the track with some fabulous equipment, all with great looking, lightweight, strong wheels; check them out at www.forgeline.com. Dynamic Motorsports brought the Cobra continuation cars and had a blast with some classic cars sporting modern updates; see Matt and Shane in Ross at their facility and on the web at www.DynamicMotorsports.com. Ken Kocher came from Lexus Rivercenter with several new IS-F cars that a number of people drove throughout the day - This is part of the new Lexus performance initiative; see them at www.Lexusrivercenter.com .

The event Sponsor, Bluegrass Motorsports Club and Road Course, had the busiest BMW M3 with drivers in three of the four groups; Brad Poppell hosted Ian and Frances Mead as drivers and also drove himself. Their website, <a href="www.drivebluegrass.com">www.drivebluegrass.com</a>, has information about the new track and membership opportunities.

I know that I have missed mentioning some of you, but I want to thank all that helped: many of the drivers have written to thank all of us.

See page 4 for some of the comments.



# I.T./SPEC\*tacular Bulletin Board

Race Dates: August 9 -10, 2008 Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

Race Chair, Todd Cholmondeley, Tefkatt@aol.com

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual I.T.SPEC\*tacular ran under near perfect weather conditions for August. With temperatures ranging from the Mid 70's during the day to the 50's at night under partly cloudy skies it was definitely a fine weekend to go racing. Entries representing 25 states and the country of Canada were on hand and ready for action Saturday morning. Saturday morning times in qualifying showed us early on that track records would be broken as drivers in IT7, SM, ITR and TCC were running below the existing records.

Saturday afternoon brought plenty of action with close racing in all race groups and the first of the track records to fall in IT7 as both Jake Gulick of Bridgeport, Connecticut and Jason Albright of Clayton, Ohio both posted times below the existing record. Race Group 5 proved much of the same as Ronald Pauwley (Arkansas), Allan Haggai (North Carolina) and Christian Bernhardt (Ohio) all took turns breaking the ITR track record with Allan Haggai of High Point North, Carolina holding bragging rights for the day. Race Group 6 made up of formula cars in the East West Challenge and Great Lakes Challenge provided the big excitement of the day when the Formula Ford of Craig Jones and the Club Formula Continental of David Keep got together at Turn 8 with one car ending up on top of the other. Both drivers were uninjured and racing resumed without further incident. The day ended with a great party at the Honda Pavilion where everyone enjoyed Pizza and many great prizes were given out. Special thanks goes out to our sponsors: KME, Performance Alignment, Continental Motorsport Services and to Tim and Terry Gilvin of Hoosier Tire. Also a big thanks to all the drivers who contributed to the worker party fund.

Saturday evening brought Thunderstorms and chilled the air for Sunday morning. The combination of a green track and cool temperatures brought the speeds up as Track records again were broken in the qualifying races. In Race Group 1 Beran Peter of Massachusetts broke the ITB track record. All three IT7 competitors bested the new track record set by Fred Albright the day before. Mark Bennett of Lagrange, OH, Gregory Stasiowiski or Wellsburg, WV and Tom Fowler of Cumming, GA all broke the existing track record for SM. The track record for ITR didn't last long either as Allan Haggai continued to post faster times.

Sunday afternoon brought a conclusion to the racing with the weekend overall championship and free Hoosier racing tires up for grabs. Kip Vansteenburg of Winter Park, Florida captured the ITS title while Beran Peter of Wayland, Massachusetts won the title in ITB. Vaughn Scott of Royal Oak, Michigan set the final track record in ITB posting a solid second place in the title hunt. JD Pfetzing of Englewood, Ohio won the SpecRacer Ford title just edging out Ray Rivard of Macomb, Michigan. Race Group 3 saw Joseph Moser of Northville, Michigan take the ITA title, Vesa Silegren of Chattanooga, Tennessee the ITC title and Jason Albright win the IT7 title. Fred Albright held on to the new IT7 track record. In Race Group 4 Mark Bennett won the weekend championship and posted a new track record in SM as he, Tom Fowler and Mark Drennan of San Jose, California all took turns besting each others' time. In Race Group 5 Dave Sanders of Exton, Pennsylvania won the title in TCC while Gary Nicerson of Memphis, New York won in ITE. Allan Haggai completed a sweep of the weekend races by bringing home the title in ITR along with a the Track Record. Race Group 6 saw Paul Knight (FC) of Kawkawlin, Michigan, Tim Gaffney (CFC) of Birmingham, Michigan, Michael Kolthoff (FF) of Hamilton, Ohio and Dave Harmison (CFF) of Milan, Michigan round out the championship.



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# Makin' Tracks

### The Bluegrass Road Course Update

The Bluegrass Road Course and Motorsports Club near Sparta Kentucky has turned a corner on construction and is now accelerating towards paving this Autumn. The pavement mix will be the same as used in the construction of several of the newer courses used for Formula One and MotoGP, particularly Bahrain, Turkey and Malaysia. The grip level in dry and wet conditions should be superb for both cars and bikes; the amount of attention paid to this detail has been tremendous by Brad Poppell and his team. Combined with the elevation changes and variety of corners the upgraded pavement will make for a very competitive racing venue.

While the construction is occurring, the number of memberships and events continues to grow. Many sanctioning bodies, businesses and clubs are contracting to use the new track in 2009 for fun and exciting events throughout the year that many of you will be attending. Memberships that give you access to the Motorsports Club for a selection of private days including weekends and weekdays are available starting at \$1200 annually. Corporate memberships are available and custom-tailored to your wants and needs. Individual and Corporate members will be invited to the "Drive the Dirt" event; this will give you the opportunity to drive the course when the excavating is finished and before the gravel base is laid – it will be like a giant Rallycross!

Information about the track and memberships is available at <a href="www.drivebluegrass.com">www.drivebluegrass.com</a> or by contacting Kurt Niemeyer at Kurt@drivebluegrass.com

# Bringing Racing to your Neighborhood

### **Eight WAS the Date**

(continued from page 2)

Notes from Participants:

Thank you, had a lot of fun getting back on the track, thanks for your hospitality.

Ken Kocher, Service Manager, Lexus Rivercenter, 633 West 3rd Street. Covington Ky

#### Kurt.

Had the time of my driving life last Friday.
Thank you so much for opening such an event to non-SCCA drivers. I may actually join again after this. The event was first rate and extremely well organized. I was quite impressed and cannot wait to do it again. Again, great job and thank you! Hope to see you again at another venue soon. Have a great week!

#### Mile

James Michael Redinger Financial Advisor The Redinger Wealth Management Group **RE**-Port (continued from page 1)

I don't want to be unrealistic and say there weren't mistakes or better practices but I'm not so sure we aren't heck of a lot better than those that do it professionally. It is important to remember that everyone in the club brings value to our club in one way or another and no one is being paid to do their job. I know some folks had some frustrations in our quest to do our jobs over the event, but that is life. No matter how hard we try, we can't anticipate every eventuality, only "adapt" as well as we can which was the theme of last years National Convention. I've got to say the Cincinnati Region excels at "adapting" to the situation at hand.

Thanks again, I was extremely proud to be able to say I am R.E. of a region that can put on a three-day event like that and have so many positive comments from all corners (no pun intended). Remember to thank and congratulate yourselves and all those that helped to make this event one of the best ever.

Bill, Jr.



Wow, it's hot! Did I say that aloud? Still in the dead of summer, and we are STILL waiting on

September to get here so we can get back to Solo Competition in our region.

Most of us are taking advantage of our

sister region's events, and going Karting with Brian Walker and the gang at Competition Racing. Lot's of stuff going on with the SCCA, PDX, IT Spectacular, etc... but here in the Solo Department, it's still hurry up and

wait.

The hunt for venues (Parking lots to you and me) goes on! We check out each lead and are always looking for more. Our schedule for this year

more. Our schedule for this year probably won't change; four more

october, but we REALLY need some spots for next year. SO, if you have a lead, come on by the forums (link at the Cincyscca.com website) and give us a shout, or email me directly from a link at the Website

(address above).

Keep coming to the meetings and always check the site and forums for the latest news and gossip. Not much more to report - keep on racing!



#### The Finish Line

We are sad to report that Minten Sumner (aka Butch Sumner), brother of Jim Sumner, has passed away Saturday, July 26, 2008, at the age of 61 years. Many of you know Butch for his long and stellar history in F&C, including IRO F&C Administrator for several years in the late 80s. A Cincinnati Region member, Butch traveled extensively, volunteering in F&C at venues across the country. Some of you will also recall Jim's earlier participation as well as the participation of Butch's son, Tim. Butch is survived by wife, Pam, a son and two daughters. Address to extend sympathy to Pam and family is 8300 Brownstone Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241.Sympathy may also be expressed by a memorial contribution to the Alzheimer's Association or Little Miami, Inc.



# LeMans, Non. Les Citrons, OU!!!

By: Allen Tomey, Editor

So there I was, sitting at my desk, working hard, when along comes Mr. Spinnett. Dave had brought me in a little less than 2 years ago and shortly after I arrived I found out he has an I/T that needs some work before it's track ready. As we talked I mentioned our I/T Spec\*tacular to see if he'd get his ride ready to go. "Well, it still needs some work and, by the way, did you know we have a couple of cars we're building for the 24 Hours of Lemons?"

Ok, here's where I have to admit my age is starting to show (sometimes I don't hear too good). Add to that the fact I can be more than a bit naïve and you get...."LeMans!?! Us !?!?? Here??!?"

Well, "Here" is Toyota's Erlanger campus and although I work Accounting and Finance, seeing someone walking down the hall with brake calipers or a driveshaft under their arm won't raise eyebrows. THE LAB sits right across the pond from our building. I sometimes wonder what they do in THE LAB. After clearing things with External Affairs I got the chance to interview two of the project team members, Tom Alkire and David Schumacher. These gentlemen were kind enough to talk over their little endeavor and show me around.

The "Project" is really the 24 Hours of <u>Lemons</u> with some added bonus features. The team includes 8 UC students from the university's E3 program (Emerging Ethnic Engineers). The students get exposure to engineering fundamentals from experienced mentors and fellow Gear-Heads, as well as get their hands dirty showing off their talents. I understand Chris Majercak from the UC program has made Co-Op status (wish they had something like this when I went to school!). Just a great opportunity for these young students to Learn, Do and have Fun! You can check things out at their website, www.toyotalemons.com.

The "Lemons" premise - Put a SAFE car on the track for \$500 or less, and go 24 hours. If you go to their site <a href="www.24hoursoflemons.com">www.24hoursoflemons.com</a> you find a large emphasis on SAFE, even considering the bare bones budget. Safety equipment such as Roll Cage (mandatory), Driver Harness (mandatory), fire extinguisher (mandatory) and other safety related equipment doesn't fall into the \$500 limit. Now try to find a Toyota, or any other nameplate for that matter, and put it out there. Good Luck!

The cars I saw (the Celica was out having its Roll Cage installed) had seen better days, much better days. "Look, you can check the rear tire wear from the drivers seat in this one!" It was easy, the inner fender and shock tower had been nearly removed via the "Road Salt Rot" method. This one was destined to donate organs to the other Corolla. Over in another corner the stood the Corolla's motor. "How far will you take it down?" "Well, this is about it." Head gaskets and other parts replaced during a tear down would chew too far into the \$500 allotment.

And where, prey tell, might one find such an exquisite example of automotive engineering? Let's just say the bulletin board down at your local grocery store likely won't have you ringin' doorbells in Indian Hill. DO NOT WEAR A SUIT!

Well, as of this writing the "Crew" has competed in their first LeMons meet. After some excellent driver instruction at Mid-Ohio they took to the course at Carolina Motorsports Park in Kershaw, South Carolina. Unfortunately, the Celica threw a rod on lap 3. After much discussion the crew decided to rotate ALL drivers through the Corolla. Hey, seat time is seat time. The Corolla took a 45<sup>th</sup> place finish, as I hear, although they did suffer a DQ after multiple pass under yellows. Not too shabby for their first time out. I hear they'll be heading for Toledo in mid-September. Anyone know where they can lay hands on a Celica motor? .....CHEAP!

## Nasty. Brutish. Not Short Enough.

(an excerpt from their website) The crowd. The spectacle. The pall of blue smoke and roasted clutch discs. In all motorsport, no event captures the universal human need to whale on old crapcans and hoover down greasy



barbecue like the 24 Hours of LeMons. Before reaching the grid, you'll have to survive trials like the Personal-Injury-Lawyer Anti-Slalom, the Marxist-Valet Parking Challenge, and the Wide Open Throttle Rodthrowapalooza. Twelve hours into the race, the car voted People's Choice is called in and awarded a cash prize; simultaneously, the car voted People's Curse is called in and summarily destroyed. At the end of 24 hours, a gala awards ceremony plies the survivors with trophies, plaques, and four-figure purses in canvas bags full of nickels. What's not to like?

Visit their website and check out classes such as "No Prayer of Finishing" and "Most Likely to Leave in an Ambulance"...

Marcus Merideth 33707 Glen Street Westland, MI 48186 734-776-7799 (m) 734-722-5158 (h) mmerideth@comcast.net



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Westland, MI – July 18, 2008 – Marcus Merideth announced today that he will be seeking the position as the SCCA Board of Directors member representing Area 4 in the upcoming November election.

As an 18 year member, Marcus has served the Club in various capacities. He served on the Solo Events Board for six years, the last three years as Chairman. Previously Marcus served on the Detroit Region Board of Directors for three years and held the Regional Executive position for two of those years. He has crewed for both professional and regional road racing competitors; held a regional road racing license for three years; chaired Formula SAE for SCCA; worked Solo Events as Chief Steward, Safety Steward, Operating Steward and Chairman; currently holds a Solo Safety Steward Instructor License, Solo Youth Steward License and sometimes works race events in Flagging and Communication including the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix. Marcus' rally experience was gained in his college years playing in the Ozarks Mountains of Missouri.

He is a true race car enthusiast who has great passion for motorsports competition and welcomes the opportunity to share his hobby with others, Marcus states, "I am a firm believer that if you enjoy something you should contribute to make sure it continues and to make it better while introducing others. SCCA is all about having fun with cars and, although it is a business, having fun with cars is what we do best. I feel I have much to offer with my experience having served at both the Regional and National levels. I can offer a unique perspective to the club and how it functions. I want to use that broad view to help the Club grow stronger and secure its future."

Marcus is a mechanical engineer with a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering and is currently employed by TZ Group in Troy, MI. TZ Group is an intellectual property and technology development company with design and engineering operations throughout the US and Europe. The company is a leader in the integration of intelligence and software control into everyday objects to enable new levels of functionality. Before joining TZ, Marcus spent 17 years at Ford Motor Company as an engineer, technical specialist and supervisor. Marcus holds a Professional Engineering License in the state of Michigan.

Look for further updates on the campaign in the near future.

Mark your calendars & spread the word

2008 Great Lakes Division

# ROUNDTABLE

November 1, 2008 Dayton, Ohio

Hosted By: Western Ohio Region

Agenda, travel & motel info to follow

Send questions, comments,
suggestions & agenda topics to:

autoedge@sbcglobal.net

**TOPEKA, Kan. (Aug. 13, 2008)** – Sports Car Club of America, Inc. and SPS, LLC announced today a formal agreement naming SPS as national merchandise partner as well as the launch of sccagear.com, the official source for SCCA-related merchandise and apparel.

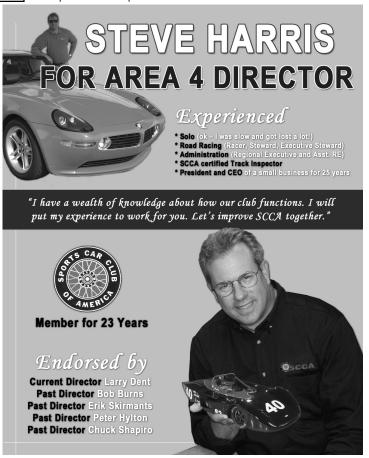
As part of an agreement, SPS will develop SCCA-branded and event products for SCCA members and the general public. In addition to its online store, SPS will be on-site for many of SCCA's biggest events, including the Tire Rack® Solo National Championships, SCCA National Championship Runoffs and SCCA National Convention as the official SCCA merchandise partner.

"SPS is run by longtime Club members who have a keen knowledge of what our drivers, crews, volunteers and fans want and expect," SCCA Vice President of Marketing and Communications Eric Prill said. "We look forward to working with SPS and expanding our merchandise product line and distribution."

"We are excited for the opportunity to partner with SCCA and apply our sales expertise, along with our knowledge of the club, in order to provide quality merchandise and apparel to volunteers, members, crew and participants in SCCA events," SPS Managing Partner Dave Whitworth said.

The SCCAGear.com site will service branded apparel and merchandise needs, while large supply orders (decals, patches, materials) will still be taken through SCCA's customer service department.

SCCAGear.com is now open for business, with new products expected to be added soon.



S.C.C.A.
CINCINNATI REGION
CINCHRONIZER
c/o The Tomeys
3823 Springoak Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45248



Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 19th at Mill Race Banquet Center on W. Sharon Road west of Winton Rd. in Winton Woods

# Coming A-TRACK-tions

#### **August**

19 - Monthly Meeting 8:30 pm

#### September

- 7 Solo Points Event #5, River Downs
- 16 Monthly Meeting 8:30 pm
- 21 Solo Points Event #6, River Downs



Sportsmanship
Demands Safe
Driving!