

February 2008

# CinChronizer



Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

## RE-Port

By Regional Executive, Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

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This is my first column for the CinChronizer as RE and I first want to say that we should all be proud that 2007 turned out to be a very good year for Cincinnati Region despite a few unexpected challenges. Our Solo program pulled out a successful season due to the hard work of the committee. Road racing had a very strong year with the introduction of a Performance Driving Experience (PDX). We tried a new format for Cincinnati Region's regional racing event that focused on some of the more popular regional classes with our first annual, and well received, IT/Spectacular. We had a fun rally that turned out to be a great social event. All in all, a positive result to a year that certainly had its challenges. I commend the board, committees, and all the members and participants that came out to make all the events successful and fun.

Cincinnati Region bid a fond farewell to 2007 at our year-end banquet last month. I want to thank all those that worked to make our annual Awards Banquet a success. Our co-chairwomen, Colleen Cabe and Jill Roeder, with some serious support from Jerry Cabe, contributed countless hours of hard work, as did many others who worked behind the scenes.

My only personal regret from the banquet was not doing an adequate job recognizing all those who put so much effort into the administration of the region. Sure we have the revolving trophies to award a number of people's heroic devotion to the club but there are also those folks that put in a huge effort and were close behind in the voting for those major awards and deserving of our thanks as well. From a selfish perspective, I want to thank Scott Tengen who completed his second year of RE and has been very helpful as I try my best to assume those duties. Congratulations again to all those who took home awards.

Later this month we have the Auto Expo 2008 February 21-24, with set up to be February 20. Please let Tony Horning know when you can help to staff our booth and relate to the attendees just how much fun it is to participate in our social and performance events. Please support this event, as we are very fortunate to have this opportunity to show off our club to such a large target audience. Thanks to the show organizers our booth is free of charge.

Our race and PDX committee have been meeting for months to refine our event for this year. Our PDX last year was the largest SCCA PDX ever held and based on the comments from the entrants and instructors, more fun than they could believe. Our IT/Spectacular was a huge hit with competitors last year and with the addition of a couple of classes and a race for formula cars looks to be even better this year. Mark your calendars for this year's event starting Friday 08/08/08 and come out for the fun.

The Solo Committee will soon confirm the '08 schedule and continues to work hard to add additional site to the River Downs and Kentucky Speedway venues.

As I'm sure you have read elsewhere in this edition of the CinChronizer we are moving our monthly meeting up to the beautiful Mill Race Banquet Center (no longer in the basement but on the second floor with an elevator and a great view) on W. Sharon Road west of Winton Rd. in Winton Woods. Please invite a prospective member or someone who hasn't recently attended a meeting, as the region will be providing appetizer trays. A full bar is available for liquid libations. Hope to see you there. Remember, YOU are the key to making our region great in '08!

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**Minutes of the January 15,  
2008 Meeting of the  
Cincinnati Region**

**Sports Car Club of America**

Board members in attendance were Scott Tengen, Bill Niemeyer Jr., E.B. Lunken, Rick Barger, Chipp Swindler, Todd Cholmondeley, Kurt Niemeyer and Brian Walker. Also in attendance were Paul Williams and Tony Horning.

The meeting was called to order by Scott Tengen.

On the motion of Bill Niemeyer Jr., with Todd Cholmondeley seconding, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Rick Barger presented the treasurer's report. On the motion of E.B. Lunken, with Todd Cholmondeley seconding, the report was approved.

Bill Niemeyer Jr. and Todd Cholmondeley reported to the board on their visit to the Mill Race Banquet Center on West Sharon Rd. On the motion of Rick Barger, with Bill Niemeyer Jr. seconding, the board voted to move the monthly meetings to there.

Paul Williams presented the solo report. The solo committee plans eight to ten events, with the final schedule still to be determined. The Evolution School is planned for late March at River Downs. The committee is still working with Butler Tech, and is at looking at the possibility of a single event at Kings Island.

Todd Cholmondeley gave the race report. In addition to the race group changes presented at the previous meeting, Todd noted that Formula Vee and Formula Fst may compete in the formula class in lieu of FC and CFC. He also informed the board that Kiern Motorsports will sponsor the SRF group.

In the PDX report, Kurt Niemeyer told the board that while the planning for the event is still in the preliminary stage, he expects a larger number of entries for this year's event.

In new business, Tony Horning informed the board that the Auto Expo 2008 will be February 21-24, with set up to be February 20. The region has space for three cars.

On the motion of Bill Niemeyer Jr., with Chipp Swindler seconding, the meeting was adjourned.



**WANTED -  
Club Members to Help at the S.C.C.A. booth  
at the Cincinnati Auto Show**

Come and talk to people about the club and talk about what you do - race, rally, solo, work, etc. Before or after working you can enjoy the show.

Show Times are:

Thursday, Feb. 21st 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday, Feb. 22nd 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday, Feb. 23rd 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Sunday, Feb 24th 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Find a few free hours and call

Tony Horning 513-281-2020 (W)

513-752-9828 (H)

Or Brian Walker 513-531-0703

**And the Winner Is...**

<p><b><u>Jim Johnston Driver of the Year</u></b> <i>(aka National Driver of the Year)</i></p> <p>In 1958, Jim Johnston became Cincinnati Region's first National Champion. The trophy is awarded each year to the Region's driver who has achieved the highest level of success in road racing (be it amateur or professional) of any Cincinnati Region driver.</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Jason Henderson</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Ray Thompson Cup</u></b> <i>(aka Regional Driver of the Year)</i></p> <p>Former Regional Executive and race driver, Ray Thompson established this trophy to recognize the achievements of our Regional drivers. This award is not presented every year.</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Stephen Jenks</b></p>
<p><b><u>The Bill Niemeyer Award</u></b> <i>(aka Rookie of the Year)</i></p> <p>This is awarded to a driver who has a distinguished rookie season as determined by the award's donor. This award is not presented every year.</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Tim Floyd</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Bert Hatfield Memorial Award</u></b></p> <p>This award was, for many years, given to a Cincinnati Region member who excelled in Timing &amp; Scoring. After not being presented through much of the 1980's, the award was expanded to include all race-working specialties.</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Jeff Loewe</b></p>
<p><b><u>The Gordon B. Miller Trophy</u></b></p> <p>This award was donated by the Gordon B. Miller Company, a supplier of trophies to the region. The award is given annually to the Region member who accumulates the most participation points in SCCA events.</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Robert Bax</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Robert King Memorial</u></b></p> <p>Donated by Mrs. Robert (Liz) King in memory of her husband, this was first awarded in 1957, the oldest of our Regional awards. The King Memorial is awarded to the Region member who accumulates the most competition points from Cincinnati Region sanctioned competitive events (races, rallies and solos).</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Jerry Cabe</b></p>
<p><b><u>The Joel Williams Award</u></b></p> <p>Joel Williams was a Cincinnati Regional Executive and a Chief of Timing &amp; Scoring for many years. With this trophy, the current Regional Executive recognizes a member who has given exceptional service to Cincinnati Region over an extended period of time.</p> <p><b>2007 Winner: Philip Osborn</b></p>	



www.continentalmotorsport.com

## Post-Banquet Awards

Great Lakes Division -  
SCCA National Championship Road Racing Series

### Congratulations Cincinnati Region Drivers!

Tom Patton - 1<sup>st</sup> Place GT2

Bryan Floyd - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place GTL

Jason Henderson - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place T2

Barney Powers - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place DSR

Contact: Scott Tengen  
to retrieve your trophy

513-702-1969 scott@tengen.com



# PERFORMANCE -ALIGNMENT-

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**MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 403**

## The Final Lap *Friends Remember Craig Rhine*

In November Cincinnati Region lost one of the real characters that made the Region fun. Craig Rhine was an SCCA member for thirty years; he was an avid automobile and airplane enthusiast. Craig served as Assistant RE, and on the Board of Directors for Cincy Region as well as Race Chairman for the Trans-Am/National race at Mid-Ohio and the Regional Races at IRP.

An Avid Flagger, Craig traveled extensively to pursue his car hobby. He enjoyed road racing on many levels from F1 to Driver's School/Regionals. We were all in good hands when he was manning a corner station. Some of the best back up on this planet, Craig put the safety of the worker first and taught many flaggers how to approach the wide variety of situations with confidence and enthusiasm.

And Craig always seemed to be there when the "Big One" came to your corner; the mammoth GT1 crash at Road Atlanta Runoffs, the Production Classes and GT cars at Mid-Ohio's turn seven when the rain started and the cars tried to knock down the sand bank, suddenly you would hear a whistle and look that way, there was Craig helping drivers and backing up the workers, seemingly always at the center of the action! He was like the mythical Chickenman; "It's Chickenman, he's everywhere, he's everywhere!"

Craig had a fabulous sense

of humor too. When you looked around the parties you would often see him doubled over in laughter as Bob and Judy, Joe and Bob Konanz and many others spun tales of their days on the corners, and he could tell a story or add details to the facts you were relating. The tales he told of crewing for Linsey Hanover's efforts, the rallies and flagging kept many of us laughing long into the night.

Craig spent a good bit of time involved in Rallying; the "sideways through the night" type of rallies run on logging trails and gravel roads. A navigator-the right seat guy with the clipboard-Craig loved to rally and got many of us to Chillicothe to work the Sunriser and Tulip events. Speaking highly of his Rally friends with cars like the "Nash Quattro" rallying was a passion for Craig and added to his hilarious stories.

This sense of humor led to things like having a real tombstone made for Brian Redman's Cat! A friend owned a monument company and had a tombstone that was faulty, Craig purchased this and had the epitaph of "The Cat" engraved on it, loaded it in the ex-police cruiser and headed to Road America for the dedication! The legend was greatly enhanced by this action so typical of Craig Rhine - "The bloodshot blur with fur" was a frequent visitor to worker parties around the country, as was Craig, usually with a bottle of single malt and a smile! A great guy all around and a plus to the SCCA he made each race a fun experience.

A real "Car Guy" Craig enjoyed a variety of Sports cars including Big Healey's, Sprites, Rotary Mazdas and ex-police cars. Autocrossing a 240Z during his days as Delt at Akron U got Craig involved with sporty cars and led to his sharing his joy with so many of us.

A huge supporter of Club Racers, Craig could be seen on the corners during the race extolling his friends to achieve their goals. Recently Craig was spotted at Mid-Ohio on a pace lap at turn seven, he had a hand made sign that said "work it" and his pocket score card with a "2" displayed, apparently one of the drivers had told Craig he was trying to get the nerve to stay on the throttle until the 2 marker, and now Craig was there to coach that fellow and help him get those lap times down, he was just that kind of a person.

Even though we will not hear the laughter and see the smile, revel in the fact that Craig Rhine impacted the SCCA is a positive way that is unparalleled. As a tribute, recruit someone to come out and flag, be a starter, autocrosser, rallyist, grid marshal, driver or just enjoy road racing; part of everyone's "Asbach Challenge." Drink a toast to Brian Redman's Cat and Craig Rhine-an all around great guy we will all miss.

Craig is survived by his Mother and several sisters and by the many that are better people for having known him.

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



We're on the Web!  
[www.cincyscca.com](http://www.cincyscca.com)

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

## Coming A-TRACK-tions

### February

19 - Monthly Meeting at Mill Race Banquet Center  
21-24 Cincinnati Auto Show at Convention Center

### March

18 - Monthly Meeting at Mill Race Banquet Center

### August

8 - PDX at Mid-Ohio  
9/10 IT/SPEC\*tacular at Mid-Ohio

**We have a new  
meeting Pit-Stop!  
Fuel up on the  
Free Appetizers!**

