

March 2008

CinChronizer



Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

RE-Port

By Regional Executive, Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

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Not being a subscriber to "Speed" it has been a long motorsports winter. At least there is some rowdy round stuff on TV to fulfill "The Need".

The Auto Expo was a huge success thanks to all those that put in hours of time and effort. We had a great booth location in the hall on the way to the ticket counter. Our very nice display of three cars including Jerry Cabe's race and Solo prepped Miata, Brian Walker's Solo and PDX prepped RX-7 and Jason Henderson's 350Z race prepped for the T2 class drew many interested attendees. Brian Walker provided posters with photos for the tables and David Santel provided a large flat screen TV to show photos and Solo/Racing videos. It was a great opportunity to relate to the public just how much fun it is to participate in our social and performance events. There were handouts including the Cincinnati Region Event Schedule, Bluegrass Motorsports Club, Mid-Ohio and SCCA's new "Obsession" brochure. Jason Henderson provided his promo postcard. We had a drawing for an SCCA fleece vest provided by Topeka that got us about 100 entries to contact about membership. Thanks again to all those that came out to do some bench racing with the attendees and fellow participants. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to show off our club to such a large target audience and thanks to Hart Productions, our booth was free of charge.

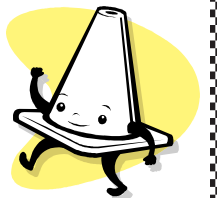
Elsewhere in this publication check out my first in a series of articles about the 2008 SCCA National Convention. This month's edition gets into the "Membership" programs and initiatives SCCA has in place.

Our first Solo is/was March 16th, depending on when you read this, at River Downs. Finally, a chance to get out and attend a performance event after the long winter.

Please join us for the regular monthly meeting at the beautiful Mill Race Banquet Center on W. Sharon Road west of Winton Rd. in Winton Woods. Invite a prospective member or someone who hasn't recently attended a meeting, as the region will again be providing appetizer trays and there was plenty last month. A full bar is available for liquid libations. **Remember, YOU are the key to making our region great in '08!**

It's Solo Time!

The first points event is scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 2008 at River Downs. Pre-Registration is encouraged. Please see the website for registration and waiver forms. The second and third points events will be April 6th and 20th at the Kentucky Speedway in Sparta. A joint event is planned with WOR at Kilcare Raceway in August. Stay tuned to the website and the CinChronizer for more events as they are scheduled. Questions?? Contact Solo Chair, Andy Stanford at quaddawg50@fuse.net.



Minutes of the February 19, 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, Todd Cholmondeley, Jerry Cabe, Kurt Niemeyer, Doug Duddey, and Brian Walker. Also in attendance was Andy Stanford.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

On the motion of Todd Cholmondeley, with Doug Duddey seconding, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Rick Barger presented the treasurer's report, and a financial summary for the years 2003-2007. On the motion of E.B. Lunken, with Todd Cholmondeley seconding, the report was approved.

Brian Walker reported on preparations for the 2008 Auto Expo. On the motion of Brian Walker, with Todd Cholmondeley seconding, the board approved the purchase of flyers for the event. On the motion of Brian Walker, with Chipp Swindler seconding, the board approved the expenditure of up to \$100 for supplies for the event.

Andy Stanford gave the solo report, and presented a budget for the coming season. In addition to the two-day evolution school, the solo committee has 7 firm events scheduled, with the possibility adding up to four more. On the motion of Rick Barger, with E.B. Lunken seconding, the board approved the solo budget.

Todd Cholmondeley gave the race report. Planning for the race is proceeding according to schedule, with a race to budget to be presented to the board in March.

Kurt Niemeyer reported on the PDX. The supplemental regulations are done, and the entry form should be ready by the end of March. The entry fee is to be \$199 for region members, and \$225 for non-members, with Cincinnati members getting first priority in registration.

Bill Niemeyer Jr. reported on the National SCCA Convention. Many of the Power Point presentations from the convention will be available on the national website.

In new business, on the motion of Brian Walker with E.B. Lunken seconding, the board approved the reimbursement for expenses up to \$75 per member for members attending the spring training meeting in Toledo.

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



Updates on the Eights 08-08-08

Eight is the Date! The **Performance Driving Experience PDX** is set for 2008; mark Friday, August 8 on your calendar for fun and excitement at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Last year, Cincy Region had the biggest and best PDX with 108 drivers taking part. Over 30 instructors volunteered their time along with another dozen folks that helped in key positions like Tech, Registration and Grid. Bob Miller and his friends in FCA Ohio Chapter brought 27 Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Maseratis and more fun to the day, stayed for Saturday with a show and shine featuring more than 70 cars - the eye candy quotient was off the scale!

For 2008, we are planning even more fun in your car. For those of you not familiar with the PDX concept it is geared for maximum fun; take your car to a race track and drive it at speed, get coaching and instruction from an experienced driver to get the fast way 'round. Solo cars, street cars, grocery getters - they are all welcome; no special safety equipment is necessary, only a helmet, long sleeves, long pants and shoes that cover the feet completely and seat belts. Two drivers can drive one car in different sessions. We do not take lap times. If you bring a "crew" they can time you, or you can use a timer to track your progress. No times will be posted.

This year more Cincy members have stepped up to help with the event: Bobbi and Tim Ross will be the Tech Inspectors, Scott & Jodi Tengen will be your friendly registrars, Chipp Swindler is the Grid Honcho, Bill Niemeyer Jr. is once again the Chief of the Instructors - those that know the way, show the way! We need you to assist too. If you can help in any area we will give you a substantial discount on your entry fee to come and assist and drive. All who instruct or volunteer get lunch included, too.

The Bluegrass Motorsport Club and Road Course has agreed to be the Presenting Sponsor of this PDX and other events sanctioned by the Cincy Region SCCA. Many of you heard the announcement that construction of this exciting new facility has started near Sparta, Kentucky, featuring a 3.4 mile road course and a skid pad for autocrossing! A racer's paradise!

Watch this space and the website for Updates on the Eights; contact Kurt Niemeyer at cincypdx08@yahoo.com or Scott Tengen at Scott@tengen.com for more info about the PDX.

Cincinnati, OH (February 27, 2008) - Bluegrass Motorsports Club & Road Course is underway; it was announced today by track president, Brad Poppell. This marks the completion of our design and development and the beginning of a process that will result in the grand opening of America's newest competition road course that also includes a country club for members to learn their limits in a fast and safe environment. The Governor's office contacted us and we are planning a formal groundbreaking ceremony for April 10th," said Poppell.

"Bluegrass Motorsports Club & Road Course is looking to bring top-level motorcycle and sports car competition to the Tri-state. We have our sights set on a number of smaller series for both sports cars and motorcycles that Andy Vertrees, vice president of operations, is working on at this time. As the former COO of Iowa Speedway and Director of Operations for Kentucky Speedway, Vertrees' experience will prove invaluable as we make our mark as one of the premier tracks in the U.S.

"We completed our preliminary design in the fall, and then signed Derek Daly (49 starts in Formula One and 6 starts in the Indianapolis 500) to take our track design to the next level. Our commitment to the design process has ensured we will have one of the top competition course designs on the planet. The track offers a safe environment for our club members, driving schools, local car clubs, law enforcement and emergency personnel, and sanctioned events for sports car and motorcycles.

"Kurt Niemeyer of the SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) is one of these enthusiasts who views Bluegrass as a rental opportunity to expand their club's driving curriculum, without driving over three hours to the nearest track," continued Poppell. "It's just awesome these guys stepped up and responded to what this market needs," said Niemeyer.

The highlights of the project include:

- Motorsports enthusiasts will be able to do everything from joining the country club and garaging their cars on site to participating in sports car and motorcycle club events, attend driving schools for every level from beginner to expert, and simply enjoy the excitement of the highest levels of racing.
- The 3.5 mile track has over 100' in elevation change in 100 different configurations and can operate two tracks simultaneously.
- Facilities include horse stables and riding trails nestled on 500 acres.
- The project's architecture captures the Kentucky horse farm ambiance with even the garages resembling horse stables.
- One of the longest straights in North America with a 4000' front straight and 2500' back straight.
- Signature corners designed to gratify the novice and challenge the best competitors in the world with some turns resembling such famous European tracks as Eau Rouge at Spa Francorchamps, and an 11 degree banked turn called Monza.

IT/SPEC*acular Bulletin Board

Race Dates: August 9 -10, 2008 Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
Race Chair, Todd Cholmondeley, Tefkatt@aol.com

HELP WANTED

We need YOU!! to come out and help your club. We have plenty of positions to choose from including, Registration, Timing and Scoring, Tech Inspection of race vehicles, Grid, Pit, Start and Flagging and Communications. No experience is necessary; we love to teach. Receive a discount on the PDX just by volunteering. For more information contact Todd Cholmondeley at Tefkatt@aol.com.

Timing and Scoring

This could be the most comfortable seat at the track. Air conditioning and heat, (if necessary). You get to sit down most of the day. Timing and Scoring has become very sophisticated from times past. A lot of the program is computerized, but it takes people to run the computers. The T&S function is recording the speed of the contestants, comparison against others and providing a grid list for the races. Then during racing the speed is recorded as well as position on the track which then produces race results. For more information contact Todd Cholmondeley at Tefkatt@aol.com.

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SCCA at the Auto Expo

By: Brian Walker

We had a great booth and many people helped out to make this year's show one of the best! Just wanted to thank Jerry Cabe and Jason Henderson, for including cars for the show. My RX-7 was also there. The cars were a big help in drawing interest to our booth. The display was out in the lobby this year and we had enough room for everything we wanted to show. I, with the help of Jill Roeder and Jeff Loewe, designed poster boards that included the 5 different aspects of SCCA: Club Racing, Solo Racing, Rally Racing, SCCA Workers, and our PDX Program. These helped explain to people at the show the different things in which they could get involved. Also, a big thanks to David Santel for the use of a large flat panel TV that we showed a slide show designed by Jeff Loewe and also some SCCA Runoff videos. Thanks to all who worked the booth and helped to promote our Club. I believe we will get a strong response from this in the coming months in the way of increased membership and participation.

MEMBERSHIP

By: Jerry Cabe

The Cincy Region currently has 418 members. Historically, our region at the end of each year has had 398 members in 2005, 418 in 2006, and 405 in 2007. With the region's recruiting effort at the New Car Show, and with new recruitment/retention programs available from Topeka, this number is expected to grow. Please consider taking an active role in welcoming and mentoring all new members.

One of Topeka's new programs for Race Official Retention is directed at existing race volunteers. Starting at the beginning of 2008, you can receive credit for your participation against your membership dues. You can record your participation online, or provide participation at your renewal time. Credits are given to active volunteers as \$15 for 4 days worked, \$22 for 6 days, and \$30 for 8 days.

2008 SCCA National Convention Report

First in a series - Membership

First of all I would encourage all members take the time to attend the SCCA National Convention. Next year the convention will be held in Las Vegas so there should be inexpensive transportation options and much more to do with the casinos or if you prefer, nearby Hoover Dam and Zion National Park.

I was not only very impressed with how valuable the convention was to me as a new R.E. but also by how much info is available on all the SCCA Programs and Initiatives. This year's theme was "ADAPT" and I've got to say I really feel the SCCA National office is back on track with a strong mission and goals. They have come to realize the members ARE their customers and while not everyone can be satisfied 100% of the time, they will do their best to fulfill membership's needs. Remember, the SCCA is your club; you came for the cars and stayed for the people.

Since there is so much information I will do a monthly article for the "CinChronizer" describing some of the high points from the seminars and workshops I attended. You can log on to SCCA.com to view the presentations and hear some of the keynote addresses under the "Convention" tab.

This month is all about "**Membership**" as it is undoubtedly the top priority of the club. Membership involvement is a key element as we are a grassroots organization and many of us got involved by being asked by a friend, neighbor or family member to go to an event with them. We must all do the same to bring in new participants. There is a huge incentive for all of us as there are fixed costs to every event and the more participants we have the less expensive it is for each of us, be it time or money. Members are our best recruiters, national can provide marketing for awareness but it is up to the individual members to actually bring in new people.

There are a multitude of programs, some new, to make it less expensive to maintain your membership, attract new members, attract and retain volunteers and let potential members try an event. In general:

Weekend Memberships-5 consecutive day membership for \$15 with only \$5 of that charged to the region. Applies toward regular membership within 60 days, limit of \$30 discount. The goals of this program are to make sure everyone at an event site will be covered by SCCA's best in class insurance and to promote membership at a more reasonable cost.

Membership Referral Program-By adding your name and member number to a new member's application, you get \$5 off annual dues and the new member, including First Gear, gets a \$15 discount (and a contact in the region). National keeps track of referrals and you are credited at your next renewal up to the total cost of your renewal, family and spouse included.

Volunteer Rewards-Introductory Volunteer Membership-Gets a new volunteer their first event free and a \$30/year membership for the first 3 years providing they continue to volunteer.

Dues Supplement for Active Volunteers-allows existing volunteers to earn up to \$30 credit toward their annual dues through continued volunteering.

First Gear Program-A specially discounted \$45 membership for members under 25 years old. Can now hold any license without an upgrade to regular membership.

The really great news is you can combine programs for multiple discounts in most cases.

There are also several new programs designed to help introduce SCCA to people that might not otherwise be aware of the Secret Car Club of America. We were able to take advantage of one of them, the **Membership Recruitment Promotion** supplied us with an SCCA Fleece Vest, entry forms, and a collection box for the recent Cincinnati Auto Expo. The region will draw a winner of the vest, enter the 100 entrants in a provided spreadsheet and in exchange national will mail a package about SCCA and our region to each of them all at no charge to the region.

Street Survival®-is a program in cooperation with BMWCCA and Tire Rack that is designed to teach young people better driving skills for a very reasonable cost. This is a soft peddle approach to acquaint young people and their parents with SCCA with the hope they will be so impressed with our philanthropic intentions that they will join us for other events. The greatest part is it helps to keep our young people safe as they gain more experience on the roads.

PDX/Time Trials-Hopefully everyone understands after our first event that these events are an easy, less expensive way for enthusiasts to drive their car on a real road racecourse. SCCA is working on a plan to make the transition to Club Racing easier by giving PDX participation credits toward a racing license.

SOLO/Rally/Rallycross-These programs continue to be very good conduits to involve enthusiasts in SCCA at a low cost at a local level.

With all these programs and initiatives it obviously takes quite a bit of effort to manage them. The Membership Chair is now considered to be the second most important region office. It is paramount we all support the efforts of membership chair and think "membership" as we go about enjoying what we all know are the benefits of belonging to the great group of people that are the SCCA.

Think about a friend, co-worker, or neighbor and invite them to an event or meeting!

SCCA <> Multiple Sclerosis

Mary Schutte, wife of former member Al Schutte, is currently battling MS. A previous Cincinnati Region Regional Executive, Paul Prill, has also been battling MS for somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 years now. A fundraiser for the National MS Society is being planned for Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 8 p.m. at Go Bananas Comedy Club. Comics include Drew Hastings and Geoff Tate. All proceeds go to the National MS Society to create a world free of MS. All for a donation of \$15/person! For more details see gobananascomedy.com.

Club Racer Reserved Numbers

The deadline for 2008 reserved car numbers is March 26th. The Great Lakes Division is collecting \$10 for each reserved number to help offset the cost of the GLD Driver's School. Go to www.greatlakes-scca.org to obtain the registration form.

Great Lakes Division Driver's School

The only Driver's School being held in the Great Lakes Division in 2008 is scheduled for April 19-20 at Nelson's Ledges in NE Ohio. There are other schools scheduled in other divisions, but you will be traveling a long way to attend them. Check the GLD website at www.greatlakes-scca.org to obtain more information.

Annual Tech Inspection

The Cincinnati Region is scheduling an annual tech day for Club Race vehicles on Sunday, April 6th. It is being planned for 1:00 - 4:00 at Major Tire in Woodlawn. The address is 518 Glendale-Milford Road, which is just west of I-75 (take Exit 14).

If your race car is in need of an annual tech inspection, or will need one early in 2008, you should consider taking advantage of this opportunity. I know many racers are procrastinators, but it is a lot easier on you and the tech inspectors to take care of this in advance of a race weekend. We may be able to also schedule the technical inspection for a "new" racecar at this event, just let us know that it will need a complete initial inspection and log book.

E-mail Jerry Cabe at friar_10bsp@fuse.net to register or for questions. Please remember your suit, helmet, and log book (and car). Also thank Bill Farrell at Major Tire for allowing us to utilize their lot for this event.

For Sale

Sanborn Air Compressor - 60 Gallon Vertical - 220 Volt Single Phase - Excellent Condition \$600. I will deliver within the Cincinnati Region. Joe Fisher - 513-464-3576 or 513-494-1914.

CinChronizer - Now Available via E-Mail

In an effort to save printing and mailing costs, the CinChronizer will now be emailed to members who would rather have an electronic copy. Please send your request to jtomey@cinci.rr.com with SCCA in the subject. Please add this mailing address to your safe sender's list to make sure that we do not end up in your junk mail folder!

Cincinnati Region is sponsoring an Evolution Performance Driving School!

When: March 29th and 30th 2008

Where: River Downs

Cost: Phase 1 or Phase 2 (Phase 1 a prerequisite) \$250 with a \$25 discount if you take both phases (\$475 total)

Register: Online at My Auto Events http://www.myautoevents.com/pls/mae/frmClubDetail.Show?psCLUB_ID=12

Lunch is provided, Be there, ready to drive at 8:00 a.m. Classes usually run until 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Phase 1 classes on Saturday the 29th and Phase 2 classes on Sunday the 30th.

Registration is limited to 36 students for each day of classes.

Here is an excerpt from Evolution's website:

The "original" Evolution program as developed by the McKamey Autocross School. This first step in the Evolution is where all students start, regardless of experience. Day-long course builds upon students existing skills, while introducing new ideas to improve one's times. Students both ride and drive with Evolution trained national caliber drivers to learn where they are fast and where they need to improve. Small student teacher ratio of 6:1 insures quality instruction time. Computerized timing provides segment times, which can be compared at various times during the day. Due to some factors such as weather, segment times may not be available and are beyond our control.

Combined with race proven skills, concepts, and techniques this course will improve the performance of all drivers on both road and track. Even experienced driver's benefit from the Phase 1 course as a refresher for those things they've forgotten over the years or perhaps never learned. No matter what type of car you drive the Phase 1 skills will improve your overall driving abilities.

Note: All students must provide their own two-seat vehicle for the day. Two driver cars are welcome.

Read more about Evolution Performance Driving School at their website:

<http://autocross.com/evolution/modules/news/>



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CINCINNATI REGION
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We're on the Web!
www.cincyscca.com

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18
at Mill Race Banquet Center on W. Sharon Road
west of Winton Rd. in Winton Woods

Coming A-TRACK-tions

March

16 - Solo Autocross, River Downs
18 - Monthly Meeting at Mill Race Banquet Center
26 - Deadline for reserved car numbers
29/30 - Evolution Performance Driving School,
River Downs

April

6 - Annual Tech Inspection, Major Tire in Woodlawn
6- Solo Autocross, River Downs
13 - Road Rally
20 - Solo Autocross, River Downs
19/20 - Great Lakes Driving School, Nelson Ledges
22 - Monthly Meeting at Mill Race Banquet Center

August

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



We have a new meeting Pit-Stop! The March Program will be about Safety Equipment - HANS Devices, Seat belts, Helmets etc presented by Jim and Jenny Morsch of Continental Motorsports. **Fuel up on the Free Appetizers!**