

January 2009

# CinChronizer



Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

## RE-Port

By Regional Executive, Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

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### Next Newsletter

#### Deadline:

**Tuesday, February 3**

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

Remember the regular monthly meeting will be at the beautiful Mill Race Banquet Center with an earlier 8:00 starting time on Tuesday January 20th.

Hope you are planning to attend the annual Cincinnati Region Awards banquet January 17<sup>th</sup> at convenient River Downs. The region will again subsidize the banquet as a thank you to our members and especially to those who work hard to make our events a success so sign up now if you haven't already. Come out for a great evening, buffet dinner, fantastic door prizes and honor for those members that have excelled in competition and supported your region through their exemplary efforts.

Keep in mind the National Convention is coming up in February at Las Vegas. There are some great afares and hotel rates have fallen so you can get away from the cold for a fun filled and educational weekend with people that share your interests. Maybe even duck out for an opportunity to get lucky and enhance next year's racing budget. Want an all expenses paid trip? See the full article elsewhere in this edition.

We are still looking for a few folks for some of our appointed positions. If you think you may have an interest but aren't sure what the job entails we will be glad to explain it without obligation. We have a dedicated group that puts in a heroic effort to make things happen and they can all use help no matter how little. Office holders and key volunteers may also be eligible to have the majority of their trip to the national convention paid by the region.

Speaking of heroic efforts, special thanks go out to Solo Chair Andy Stanford and "CinChronizer" editor Jill Tomey for getting current and archived "CinChronizers" on up on our website [www.Cincyscca.com](http://www.Cincyscca.com).

PDX/Race committee meetings are being held regularly to discuss both our big road race events for '09. It is great fun planning for next year's big events at Bluegrass and Mid Ohio. By the time you get this we will have met at Bluegrass Motorsports Park on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The anticipation is starting to intensify for our May 15-17<sup>th</sup> event. Instructors have already contacted me wanting to get on the list for the first PDX and SCCA event at Bluegrass.

In national news, as most of you have heard, SCCA has a new president; Jeff Dahnert was promoted from his VP of Finance position where he successfully turned around SCCA's finances over the past four years. Those of us who met Mr. Dahnert when he attended the GLD Roundtable were duly impressed by his personable style and respect for new ideas. Please see retiring BOD member Larry Dent's comments elsewhere in this issue. Thanks go out to Larry for his dedicated service to the SCCA for over 45 years.

See you at the banquet!

Bill Jr.

## Make it Easy! Make it Fun!



TOPEKA, Kan. (Dec. 9, 2008) – The Sports Car Club of America Board of Directors have selected SCCA Vice President of Finance and Administration Jeff Dahnert as the Club's next President and Chief Executive Officer. Dahnert will transition to the position Jan. 1, 2009.

Dahnert arrived at SCCA in November of 2004. Since then he has brought transparency and accountability to SCCA's finances, substantially reduced loan amounts and helped bring SCCA Pro Racing back into the black. Evaluating each program and contract to the last detail and pushing for major restructuring, Dahnert has successfully turned around SCCA's finances and given the Club a bright future.

"The quality of applications received for the position was quite impressive," SCCA Chairman of the Board R.J. Gordy said. "We're so pleased to promote someone from within the organization who can bring a fresh and youthful perspective to the position. We're looking forward to moving our Club ahead and forging an exciting working relationship with our new President.

"It's an honor to be chosen as SCCA's next President," Dahnert said. "I'm very proud of what I've been able to accomplish as VP of Finance. It has prepared me for the challenges we currently face in this tough economy and given me great insight into what we can do to make the organization grow. I'm looking forward to interacting with the membership and its leaders as the Club continues to prosper."





Before his time at SCCA, Dahnert spent several years with Sprint as a Senior Financial Analyst. A Minnesota native, Dahnert received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minn. He is a certified public accountant and recently completed an Executive Development Program at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Dahnert, his wife Laura and family, live in Lawrence, Kansas.

## *Get A Free Trip To Las Vegas*

We are in need of a membership chairperson and we feel it is important they understand what SCCA is all about and all national can offer to help us to grow our membership. For that reason **we are paying that person's way to the SCCA National Convention in Las Vegas.** Why should we want to grow our membership? Simply put there are savings for all of us in the way of lower entry fees and more negotiating clout. Every event has fixed costs; the more participants we have the lower the cost per individual. The new membership chair should be comfortable with Excel files as we get files from national with names of new and renewing members. It is probably a good idea that they love to meet new people and let them know how much fun they can have with the SCCA and their sporty car. Please contact Bill Niemeyer or Jerry Cabe if you are interested. (Contact info on front page)



### **Cincy Region Positions Available**

-  *Membership Chairperson*
-  *Membership Committee*
-  *PDX & Race Volunteers*
-  *PDX & Race Committee Members*

# **Fun, Fair and Safe!**

# Happy Anniversary!!

Cincinnati Region is proud to recognize one of our most recognizable and enigmatic characters for **45 years of membership**. Congratulations to **Barney Powers**, also our tallest and lankiest member. Barney is a true Cincinnati guy as is evidenced by his use of Crosley engines in his beloved small bore sports racers such as his Elva MK 6. More recently, for the last several decades Barney has been racing his Bobsy SR-7 DSR (one of two built by the Medina, OH's Jerry Mong) and competing in the "SCCA Runoffs"® on a regular basis. Barney and his wife, Nancy, reside in scenic Warren County where Barney maintains his racecar in a well-organized workshop. Barney has also been a stalwart in the Sound Control lounge when he is not fine-tuning his engine and suspension.

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## Cincinnati Auto Expo sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Auto Dealers February 19 - 22, 2009 Duke Energy Center

We will once again have our booth at this event promoting our club. We need people to help man the booth all days and nights. Help us expand our wonderful SCCA by working for a few hours or a few days like some of us! Bring your experiences and stories to tell perspective members. We always have a great time and we usually get to see the show for a discounted price. We also need 2 cars that will represent the club best to put on display. The cars will have to be available from Wednesday, February 18th to Sunday, the 22nd. Please e-mail me if you would like to work or have a car for the show - briax7@yahoo.com

## Sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Auto Dealers

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*SCCA National Convention in Las Vegas  
February 19-21 - A great time and a chance to  
meet other members and learn how they do events  
in other areas.*

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- Comprehensive Novice programs

**Meet David Santel - our New Treasurer**

Hello! As the new treasurer for the Cincinnati Region, I would like to take a minute to introduce myself to those of you that don't know me. My name is David Santel, and I have been a member of the Cincinnati Region for two years now. I'm very active in the solo community here, as well as the local PDXs and go-karting events.

As a bit of background for me, I'm a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and currently program home automation systems for @Home Integrations in Loveland. Over the past couple of months, I have been working with former treasurer Rick Barger to get caught up on the regions financials. Rick has been a tremendous help to me while I learn what needs to be done in this position. I would like to thank Rick for his years of hard work in this position and for his continued support of the region. Please give Rick a nice pat on the back next time you see him!

Currently, the accounting books are completely caught up. Bill Niemeyer has helped me get the bank accounts taken care of with name transfers, and Rick has forwarded any material still being mailed to his residence. For those of you that have oh-so-patiently waited on refunds for the June PDX, you should have received your payment in the mail by the time you read this. Again, thank you for your patience while the transfer of the position was taking place. If anyone feels that they are owed money in reimbursement for any club related expense, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can work to get that figured out.

Please feel free to contact me any time by phone at (513) 205-3198, or by email at [david@cincypics.com](mailto:david@cincypics.com). I look forward to helping the region take care of its financials and will be glad to help anyone with matters relating to club accounts! Thanks again for your continued support!

- 🚗 We can always use more articles about events you have attended or stories about your car related experiences. Members are encouraged to submit articles to [jtomey@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jtomey@cinci.rr.com)
- 🚗 Did you know you can sign up to have the CinChronizer emailed to you each month? Just send an email to [jtomey@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jtomey@cinci.rr.com)
- 🚗 Classified ads are free to members and will run for three months and are renewable after that.

ORLANDO, Fla. (Dec. 11, 2009) – After a two-year hiatus since its last Champion was crowned, **SCCA's Trans-Am® Series will return in 2009**, with a planned eight-race schedule for the series which held its first race in 1966.

Five of the eight races were announced today at the Performance Racing Industry show, in Orlando, Fla., as well as the series' title sponsor for 2009—Muscle Milk®.

A joint venture between Sports Car Club of America, Inc. and subsidiary SCCA Pro Racing, the 2009 Muscle Milk® SCCA® Trans-Am® Series will consist of six events in conjunction with some of the biggest SCCA Club Racing events across the country, creating powerhouse SCCA weekends, and two key professional events. Technical rules will be based on the SCCA Club Racing GT-1 class.

The series will begin its 42nd Championship season March 21-22 at Road Atlanta as part of the Atlanta Region SCCA's season-opening National race. The series has previously visited Road Atlanta 12 times from 1973 through 2002, with race winners including former series Champions Peter Gregg, Pete Halsmer, Dorsey Schroeder, Tommy Kendall, Scott Pruett and Boris Said.

All events are expected to be approximately 90 miles in length with no pit stops. Races in conjunction with Club Racing events will have qualifying and race sessions separate from the regular GT-1 competition grouping, so drivers have the potential to run both the GT-1 Club Racing event and the Trans-Am Series event on the same weekend.

A series Web site is being established at [www.sccatrans-am.com](http://www.sccatrans-am.com). Future announcements will be placed there and at [www.scca.com](http://www.scca.com).

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## **Between the Cones** Great Lakes Solo Division News Velma Boreen and Marlene Obenour (new stewards)

- By now you may have heard that the 2009 and beyond Solo Nationals will be back on concrete and will be held September 8-11 in Lincoln, NE. Further details can be obtained on the SCCA website.
- The current Great American Solo Series (GASS) has been put on hold and there will be a new Solo Series named The Great Lakes Solo Series in its place. This Series will be run like the old GASS Series, and there will be a new committee in place to help organize it. Velma Boreen will be heading this committee. We are currently finalizing our 2009 Series schedule and as of now there is one event that is set. That event is the Great Lakes Division Solo Divisional Championship event which will be scheduled at Grissom Aeroplex on August 7, 8 and 9. We are planning to host a Test and Tune event on August 7 and the two day divisional competition will be held on August 8 and 9, 2009. We ask you to please not schedule any regional events on this date. We should have the remaining schedule set by the end of January. We are planning to send out a Bulletin with the entire schedule as soon as possible. If you are on the old GASS mailing list, you will receive this bulletin by mail. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive this Bulletin, please send me your mailing address and we will make sure you are added. All remaining Bulletins for 2009 will be published on the GASS website and will no longer be mailed. The website for future Bulletins will be [www.soloseries.org](http://www.soloseries.org). If you would like to be notified that a new Bulletin will appear on the website, please send me your email address. Your support of this new Series is greatly appreciated! We have some host regions that are very excited to be involved in this new Series!
- Great Lakes Division has a new Solo Events Board member. Dave Feighner is our new representative and can be contacted at 3392 Mayberry Road, Howell, MI 48843, (517) 552-4991 or [dif28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dif28@sbcglobal.net).
- National Tour: July 4-5 Peru, IN @ Grissom Aeroplex
- ProSolo: July 25-26 Toledo, OH
- Solo Nationals: September 8-11 Lincoln, NE
- Velma Boreen, 14861 Jonathan Drive, Westfield, IN 46074-9044, (317) 706-8969 or [wiznby1973@yahoo.com](mailto:wiznby1973@yahoo.com)
- Marlene Obenour, 6393 County Road 29, Auburn, IN 46706-9692, (260) 927-9313 or (260) 437-9451 (cell) or [obenour4@earthlink.net](mailto:obenour4@earthlink.net)

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT LAKES DIVISION, and the SCCA**

On January 1, 2009 I will officially hand over the reins of the GreDiv Directorship to my friend Marcus Meredith. For the next 3, or perhaps 6 years, he will be the person dealing with the frustrations of running this club. I have had many pleasurable moments in the chair, but the frustration has also been great, seeing the decline of the club in so many ways, and not having the ability to make the changes needed to assure our continued existence. So please indulge me a parting communication with comments coming from my 3 years "in the barrel".

The challenges facing the club are great and many, and if they continue to converge upon us without proper response it could well be the "perfect storm" in the making.

"MAKE IT EASY, MAKE IT FUN" was our primary objective in years past. Unfortunately the club has lost sight of this simple, fundamental reality. Instead we have become complicated and intimidating both to new people wanting to enter our programs, and to seasoned veterans trying to keep pace. This has happened over years of our leaders failing to realize that the club was on a slippery slope of bureaucracy and complicated rules, and even changing those rules on a monthly basis. I wanted very much to see a **rules season** again instituted. I worked hard to get one enacted. I thought the major rules changes should be done by the printing of the GCR, new car classification finished by January 1, and competition adjustments complete just after the June Sprints. Many members want something like this, but yet I was unable to get such a simple concept in place. The competition will eat our lunch if we do not simplify our rules, rules making and rules enforcement process.

"GRAYING OF THE MEMBERS". We are not attracting and keeping the new, young and energetic people we need to continue to be the premier sports car club in America. We have strong competition from other sanctioning bodies, mark clubs, vintage clubs, hot rod clubs and more. We were never the only game in town, but we were the BEST game in town. If we do not work to attract and KEEP young people active and happy in our club we will lose by default. New members are the gold of the club. They need to be welcomed, mentored, and tutored, so they can replace the silver haired folks like me when our canes, walkers and wheel chairs will no longer get us to the action.

"BOARD OF DIRECTORS". On old saying goes, "One AH SHOOT wipes out 10 ATTA-BOYS". My BoD has had too many "AH SHOOT"s" and by shooting ourselves in the foot has garnered the disrespect of the members. Perhaps the Club has outgrown its governance. If SCCA wants to be a national presence, to compete with other sanctioning bodies, and to have the level of support and infrastructure that has developed over the years, it has to have updated governance. It cannot rely on Directors who are solely elected by popularity and without regard to qualifications. Every major corporation appoints its Board of Directors, and they are people of qualification. Businessmen with knowledge and training in the competitive world of business.

This BoD has not served the membership as well as we should have. I am not sure how this should or could change, but it is certainly a real problem. Couple that with the BoD being at odds with the CRB time after time, changing their programs and recommendations and you have chaos. The BoD has chosen to "tinker" with recommendations, programs and ideas, and this "tinkering" has usually resulted in a debacle such as the class consolidation rule that was passed and then rescinded several weeks later. Our leadership has failed you too many times recently. We did accomplish a lot of good things, so all is not gloom and doom, but the BoD needs to be a Board of Directors and establish policy, make good appointments and stay out of the day-to-day activities.

WHAT IS NEEDED? Rules stability for one thing. The BoD needs the courage to set policy and stick with it. They need to appoint good people to the CRB and SEB and then support them, not micro-manage everything that comes down the line. As I mentioned, a "rules season" would be a good start. A time for change, a time to stop changes.

"NATIONAL STAFF". The BoD needs to support the staff. Don't assign them a task and then discard it when the results are in. Communicate to the staff through the CEO. Staff works for the CEO not the BoD. Staff morale there has been a problem for this cause.

"CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS". We need to continue to make the Solo RunOffs and the Road Race RunOffs our primary participation experience. These two events need to shine brighter than the sun for our members, but they both have suffered some tarnish in the past couple of years. Fortunately that is past history with two new and great venues for them both. The future looks good here.

"SOLO". The Solo issue is very acute. The club must take a proactive national approach to assisting regions in acquiring and managing safe Solo sites. This is far and away more important to the survivability of the club than all of the hand wringing over the next runoffs venue or the national club racing program. The Solo program is our best outreach program. It is our star, but also has the potential for the most severe liability claims and possible destruction of the club if improperly or not proactively managed. Which leads me to;

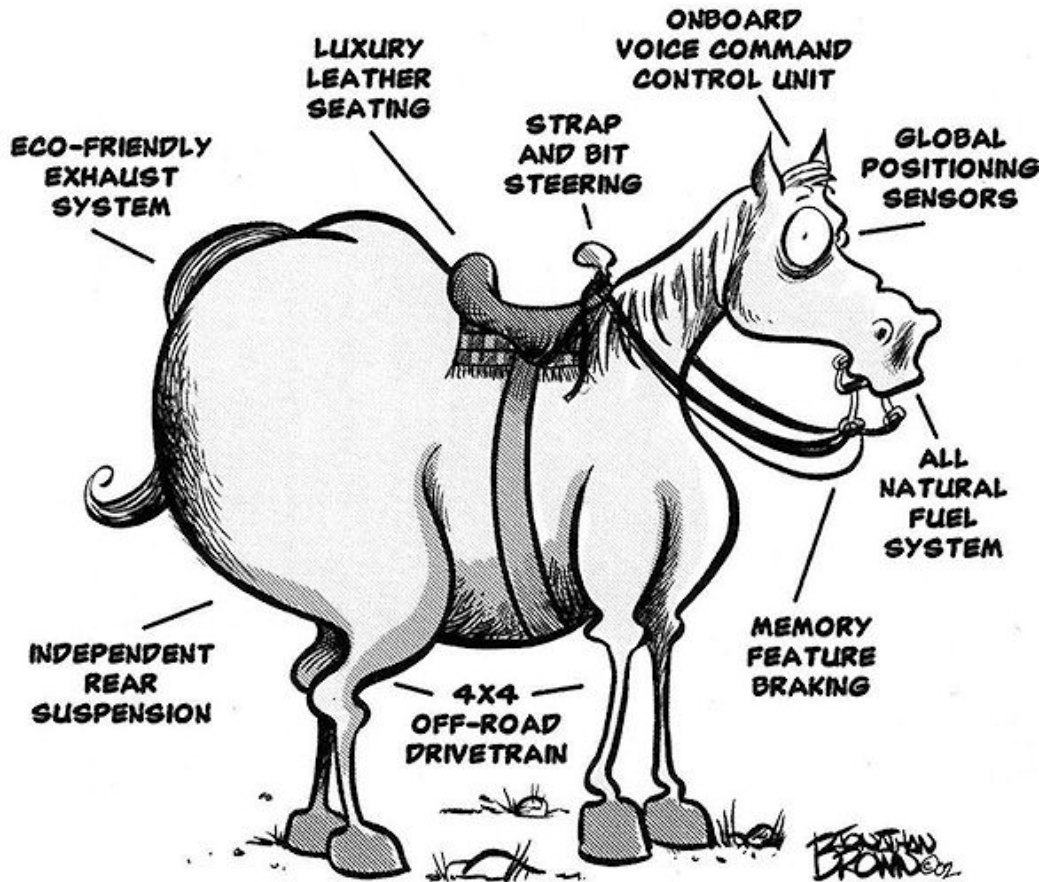
"INSURANCE". We all need to continue to work on holding safe events and avoid course designs that allow accidents. 2008 was another very bad year for solo accidents and these accidents can affect the insurance loss ratios very dramatically. If we lose our insurance we are out of business, period. In spite of our bad Solo loss record in 2008 we were still able to gain a very nice rate decrease overall for 2009. That could change if we do not control losses, and right now Solo is leading the loss parade.

"MEMBERS". Participate, participate and participate. You get out far more than you put in, and if you put nothing in, you get nothing back. Be positive in your actions and your e-mails. When I got an e-mail that started "What are you morons thinking" I simply hit delete, which brings me to my final comment.

"NEWBIES" Finally, the regions need to work their tails off to recruit new people, introduce them to the sport, nurture them and make them feel part of the action without burning them out. We need to stop the downward trend of membership by making it "FUN and SIMPLE".

For the sport, and the SCCA, I'm Larry Dent, proud to be a 45 year member.

Our Nation's Big 3 auto manufacturers face bankruptcy! We must go back to the old time basics. Americans will soon need to embrace the original SUV.



## ORIGINAL S.U.V.

### Membership Report By: ??????

This could be you! Las Vegas in February for FREE and your name in the CinChronizer every month - it doesn't get any better than that!

### The May PDX Brian Walker, Chairman

If you missed the meeting at Bluegrass on January 11th (or if the weather cancelled it) contact Brian to let him know how you want to help - [briax7@yahoo.com](mailto:briax7@yahoo.com)

### Marlboro Reunion Planned

On April 30 through May 3, 2009, veteran race drivers, pit crews, officials, workers, and spectators who were involved with the Marlboro Motor Raceway are invited to a reunion at the Jefferson 500 vintage races at Summit Point. There will be a Marlboro Reunion dinner on Friday, May 1st, as well as displays, videos from Marlboro and other memorabilia. Interested parties should contact Bob Houston by phone at 703-938-1943 or Steve Lloyd, Washington DC Region SCCA Historian, at [marlborohistory@comcast.net](mailto:marlborohistory@comcast.net)

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 17th  
 at Mill Race Banquet Center on W. Sharon Road  
 in Winton Woods at 8:00 pm - Note the earlier time!

## Coming A-TRACK-tions

### January

17 - Awards Banquet, River Downs  
 20 - Monthly Meeting 8:00 pm - new time!!!

### February

17 - Monthly Meeting 8:00 pm

### March

17th - Monthly Meeting 8:00 pm



### 2009 GLDiv racing Schedule

May 2-3	ORP	Indy National w/ restricted regional
May 9-10	Nelson Ledges	NeOhio Double regional
May 16-17	BlueGrass	Cincy PDX
May 23-24	Grattan	WMR Double regional
June 6-7	Mid Ohio	OVR National ( tentative may move to May 30-31)
July 4-6	Nelson Ledges	NeOhio/Detroit Double National
July 11-12	Gingerman	SB/WMR National w/ restricted regional
July 31-Aug 2	Mid Ohio	Cincinnati I.T.SPEC*taclular restricted regional/ PDX
Aug 8-9	Grattan	SB/WMR National
Sept 4-6	Mid Ohio	OVR Double regional/ PDX
Sept 11-13	BlueGrass	WOR Double regional/ PDX
Oct 10-11	Mid Ohio	OVR Double regional

Look at  
 our  
 events!