

November 2009

CinChronizer



Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

RE-Port

By Regional Executive, Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

Major Election

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It's not an "off year" election for the Cincinnati Region SCCA. November is a very important month for our region with our Annual Meeting and election of officers. Andy Stanford and his Nominating Committee have put together a strong slate of candidates. Please come out to vote. According to our By Laws it is next to impossible to nominate from the floor so you are safe if that is holding you back. If you are interested in running or in one of the appointed positions like competition chair, or a committee let us know and we will make it happen.

Thanks to everyone that came out to the Mill Race Banquet Center (MRBC) at Winton Woods last month. If you haven't been to MRBC it is a great facility and with activities winding down why not come on out for some serious end of the year bench racing. In October, we all enjoyed all kinds of stories about the end of season championship events, from driver, volunteer and crew viewpoints and I'm sure there are more. Sounds like everyone had a memorable time. If you haven't yet, give it a try next season.

Brian Walker is getting an early start on the upcoming car shows. He has contacted the Cincinnati Auto Expo where we have exhibited for years and this year he has managed to get us a huge booth on the main floor of the show. What that means is we need lots of cars and volunteers to take advantage of this huge opportunity to showcase our club to thousands. Brian is also working on a display at the Cavalcade of Customs show. If you would like to display your car and get some big points for your sponsors please get in touch with Brian via email at briax7@yahoo.com or talk to him at the meeting.

Due to popular demand, at our last board meeting, the board decided to publish a hard copy of our current membership list for distribution to members that want one. One of the features we would like to add is your vocation. Many of our members provide services or goods that others need and we want to put everyone together for their mutual benefit. We will put a notice in this and the next CinChronizer for you to "opt out" if you do not want all or part of your information from the SCCA National Database published. Please make sure the info on that database is what you want included, i.e. work vs. personal email, home vs. cell phone. The list will not be available in an electronic format to avoid easy misuse.

(continued on page 3)

"Make it Easy, Make it Fun"

Next Newsletter

Deadline:

Tuesday, December 1

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. Board Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Between the Cones

Andrew Stanford, Solo Chair, Cincy Region



Well guys, it had to happen... the season is at its end, but what a GREAT season it was!

Our last event was held October 25th at River Downs and it was a gorgeous day. A great time was had by all 85 competitors. The course was fast, and the sky was clear, even though we started out cold, dark and foggy. Once the sun came up the fog cleared out quickly and as the pavement heated up, so did the points race. Several classes came down to the wire and the list of Season Champions will be posted soon.

Along with a regular autocross, we also had our Second Annual Multi-Region PAX Championship. With a record turnout, we had four regions competing for the title, and THIS year... a trophy! Cincy Region, Central Kentucky, Ohio Valley Region, and Western Ohio each fielded a team of their 3 best attending PAX finishers for the day, and we held a 12 person run-off. The results were close, and it came down the very last run.



I am proud to announce that YOUR region once again prevailed, with the efforts of Danny Popp, Bryan Schafer and Scott Giles!

Sixteen year old Riley Malling is nuts about cars and racing. So What?! Just about everyone reading this is nuts, too. Riley is confined to a wheelchair (as is his 13 year old brother) but it didn't stop him from participating in our last autocross. Driver Mike Cowperthwaite took Riley as a passenger in his 1984 Trans Am (see article elsewhere). Cowperthwaite won his class and gave Riley the opportunity to accept the trophy with a drive-by the timing and scoring trailer. The pictures tell the rest of the story.



Go!

Riley!



Go!

RE-port (continued from page 1)

According to the updates on Caring Bridge.com and husband Bill Braucksick, Simone Smiljanic continues a strong recovery from her recent stroke with therapy at Drake Hospital. Don't forget to keep Judy Cowie in your prayers as she fights the effects of ALS.

Everyone is welcome to our regular meeting and elections this month. Remember, the club provides a nice variety of appetizers and a full range of complimentary soft drinks and coffee and a full cash bar is available. For those that want a full meal before the meeting, a full menu is available in the grillroom downstairs. 8:00 starting time on Tuesday, November 17th. Hope to see you there!

Bill Jr.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

This serves as notice for you to "opt out" if you do not want all or part of your information from the SCCA National Database published in a new hard copy of Cincinnati Region member's contact information. We need your vocation information if you are interested in doing business with other club members. Please make sure the info on that database is what you want included, i.e. work vs. personal email, home vs. cell phone. The list will not be available in an electronic format to avoid easy misuse. Please contact any board member with your corrections and/or full or partial "Opt Out".

REVOLVING TROPHYS

It's time again to return those annual revolving trophies so they can be engraved with the new recipient's name in time for the Awards Banquet in January. Please contact

E.B. Lunken (513) 831-9660 or
Tony Horning (513) 281-2020

to arrange the return.

The Story Behind "Riley's" Trans-AM

Jim and Michael Cowperthwaite acquired the Trans-AM several years ago from Rich Shafer in Atlanta (see article below on his passing). who had made the Trans-Am famous in the Southeast with his many championships. Rich did not want the car parted out when it was sold and was picky about to whom he sold it. The Cowperthwaites got the car without a motor and began to rebuild it. This year was the first year that they (Mike) raced the car and they took their class. Over the years they had maintained contact with Rich and call their experiences with him memorable.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (Oct. 7, 2009) – Richard R. Shafer, of Stockbridge, Ga., was pronounced dead at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga Saturday, Oct. 3 after being airlifted there from Jackson County, Ala., where he was involved in a single-car incident at the Crow Mountain Hill Climb, sanctioned by Sports Car Club of America's Tennessee Valley Region. He was 66.

Witnesses reported that Shafer's modified Chevrolet Camaro left the road at the third corner of the course that was approximately two miles in length. He was initially conscious at the scene and transported via helicopter. He later succumbed to his injuries.

Hill Climbs are one of the oldest forms of motorsports competition in the United States, and are set up on challenging pieces of road closed to public traffic. The course is marked with a start and a finish, with drivers trying to complete the course in the lowest possible time. Shafer was making his second run at the time of the incident.

Known as "Mr. Cool Shirt," Shafer was the founder and CEO of Cool Shirt, a company that developed a cooling vest initially for surgeons in the operating room. The company later expanded its line of vests and shirts to cater to racecar drivers, football players, fire/emergency services/hazmat, military and industrial workers.

"Rich Shafer was dedicated to making racers better and safer and his passing is a loss for the industry," SCCA President and CEO Jeff Dahnert said. "Our thoughts are with his family and friends."

Shafer is survived by his wife, Eileen and their two children.

2010 Cincy SCCA

Board of Directors Election

The Annual Meeting is coming up! November 17th at the Mill Race Banquet Center.

Make your voice heard and come vote!!

The 2010 Board of Directors Ticket:

Regional Executive: Bill Niemeyer is stepping down (or UP actually to Chairman of the Board) and David Santel is running unopposed.

Assistant R.E. : E.B. Lunken has agreed to continue as Assistant R.E. and is running unopposed

Treasurer: David Santel is vacating the position to become the next R.E. and Dan Chambers is running for Treasurer, unopposed

Secretary: Bryan Schafer and Christy Graham are running against each other for the office of Secretary

Members at Large: You will be asked to pick THREE from the following members for this office Member at Large

Tom O'Gorman
Rodney Sizemore
Wayne Furr

Brian Walker
Joe Kohls

Becoming An Outlaw

Chase Heikkila, one of our younger Cincy Region members, has been off at college for the past year at Belmont Abby College near Charlotte, NC. He is studying Business with a possible major in Race Management. His involvement in SCCA changed a little last year when he found a female that could co-exist with him. Then we began to worry a little when he started working Sound Control instead of Grid or F&C. But now we find out that he has totally gone to the Dirt Side. Chase has recently been chosen to intern at World Racing Group in Charlotte. <http://www.worldracinggroup.com/> WRG owns and sanctions the World of Outlaws Sprint and Late Model Series, among others. They own several tracks and have team owners that are familiar names in the NASCAR series. Besides getting coffee for the series director, he will be responsible for social networking of the company via websites like Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace. He will also manage the World of Outlaws' website with pictures and photo albums from different races. He will be updating driver standings and points, along with working news articles for the site. When at the track, he will be with a film crew interviewing drivers/officials/crew and any cute fan he can find for the TV show WRG owns. <http://www.dirtvision.com/> We might even get to see him changing the ball caps on the event winners. Chase sounds excited about this opportunity, and we all wish him well in his latest endeavor.

The Enquirer/Cars.com Auto Expo

The Cincinnati Region SCCA is once again participating in the Enquirer/Cars.com Auto Expo and we need your cars and your help. The show is from February 25th- 28th 2010 and we have a HUGE space to fill- 55 by 70 feet on the main floor of the DUKE ENERGY CENTER. So we need at least 10 to 12 cars of show car quality to enter. The cars will be under 24 hour security and will have to be dropped off on Wednesday Feb. 24th between 8a.m. and 2p.m. They will have to exit on Sunday Feb. 28th after 6p.m. We would like maybe 6-8 SOLO cars of different classes from stock-modified . We also need several Road Race cars- open wheel to Pro Class. All car owners will receive full admission to the show any day. We also need workers to help tell racing stories and help pass out schedules and info about the SCCA. Any worker will get free admission. THIS IS A BIG DEAL FOR THE CLUB! It is a chance to get more participants and to help us put on bigger and better events! If you would like to sign up to work or show a car contact me, Brian Walker, at briax7@yahoo.com or (513)519-3876.

Congratulations Jennie Morsch on 30 years!!!

Cincinnati Region is especially proud to recognize Jennie Morsch as a 30-year member of SCCA. Many of you know Jennie from Continental Motorsports. Jennie raced a Crossle prepared by husband Jim in Formula Ford for many years. Her success in that class won her the Ray Thompson Regional Driver of the Year Award in 2001. Jennie has volunteered extensively throughout the years for numerous jobs in the club from the Annual Awards Banquet, Car Shows, and many others. One thing is for sure, Jennie always has a smile for you.

More from the Run-offs.....

From Jim and Jennie Morsch, Continental Motorsport Services

On Saturday the 12th, leaving for the Elkhart runoffs started a bit late. The Duke Energy transformer in front of our house expired in rockets red glare. The service wire to our house was on fire. Once the fire department assured us that our house and the trees around the wire were safe, we were on our way.

Will Illinois ever finish the turnpike into Wisconsin?!

Business was slow the first week. There were not many cars testing. It seems that there are enough races at Elkhart to learn the circuit and set-up.

The weather was great for the test days; breaking a local record for no rain. A couple of days the following week made up for it. The storm on Tuesday had rapids running through our store. The water was over our boots. Road America maintenance folks brought us 10' planks and wood palates to walk on so that our customers did not sink or slip in the bog. Thanks to Tim Silver for his "rescue" turf rug. One man's junk is another man's treasure.

It's always good to see Bruce Wolf and Mary Ann of Buzz Thru. Great coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and goodies. Thanks to Judy Cowie for the Buzz Thru runs for us.

We stayed at the Plymouth Inn. It is close to the circuit and quite nice. Unless you are willing to drop lots of \$20.00 bills, bar food is the fare of choice. Antoinette's and the Plymouth Café have some dinners. We got real tired of pizza, burgers and fries. After 17 days at the track, a home made meat loaf was like a fine steak dinner.

It is always great to help the competitors have a successful event. This is supposed to be fun. We try to take the stress out of the competitors wondering where to find parts.

A big thank you to all of the drivers and crews for their business. We really DO appreciate it.

From Tom Patton

2009 marked our 25th Runoffs. We were going back to a world class race track Road America. Our trip to Road America was full of challenges along the way. The 2009 season was successful with 6 wins out of 7 races and the only non win came when we broke a rocker stud at the June Sprints. We had made some major changes to the aero package (a wing instead of a deck spoiler) and Aim Data acquisition which we added at the second race of the season. So to fully develop we went to the test day before the Cincy Regional at Mid Ohio. In the second session we broke the motor so we loaded up and headed home. On the way home we broke the motor in the tow vehicle. Broke a piston a both how about that for luck. But with the help of many we got everything together and rented a truck from Enterprise. I must say that I like the new format with the event starting on Tuesday instead of the past with Monday being the start. We tested on Monday and everything went well. Tuesday saw the rains come and we stayed off the track. On Wednesday we qualified 6th but not happy with our speed. We made one more adjustment and the car was great and we stayed 6th but less than a second off the pole. It was going to be a fun race with so many cars so close on time. My goal on the start was not to be taken out in the 1st few turns. Apparently my competitors did not have the same goal. I had a very good start and crossed over into the inside lane behind Mason who was on the move. Then I had to back off a little as the 2 Cup cars were arguing over the real estate I was occupying. After turn 5 the cars got into single file and we started to move up. I really felt racy this day and was looking forward to running down the cars in front. Unfortunately at the end of the straight starting the 3rd lap a spring retainer broke allowing the valve to hang which resulted in an untimely end of our race. I had predicted many engine issues with the Road America 4 mile track's abusive nature on the race motor; I however never thought it would be us.

Despite the short race Janet and I enjoyed the event. Weather was very nice except for the Tuesday rain. We were long gone before the rains came late Sunday. It was great to see some of our friends that we only see at the Runoffs. But this year we also got to see our friends from the region that came to RA that chose not to go to Topeka. Thanks to Billy for being there all week and setting up the car's suspension, it was on rails! Thanks to Paul's Automotive and Engineering for making the power to make us competitive again. Thanks to Doug Jennings for making the body work look so good after we tear it up so badly. And of course the biggest thanks goes to St. Janet, who has allowed me to pursue my dreams.

P.S. Congratulations to Barney for being worker of the year!

S.C.C.A.
CINCINNATI REGION
CINCHRONIZER
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We're on the Web!
www.cincyscca.com

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 17th
at Mill Race Banquet Center on W. Sharon Road
in Winton Woods at 8:00 pm Elections are this month!!!!

Coming A-TRACK-tions

Nov 14 Great Lakes Division Roundtable

Nov 17 Monthly Meeting at 8:00 pm
Annual Elections

No Monthly Meeting in December

Watch for information on Annual Banquet



The Sports Car Store provides dealer quality service at about half the price. We receive our parts direct from the distributors and pass the savings on to you. Owner, Steve Mains has personally been working on import cars for over forty years. If you own a Mercedes - Benz, BMW, Porsche, Audi, Jaguar, Ferrari, Saab, Rolls - Royce, Bentley, Lamborghini, Saab, Volvo, MG, Triumph, Volkswagen (air or water cooled), we want to be your service and repair specialists.

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