

October 2008

# CinChronizer



Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

## RE-Port

By Regional Executive, Bill Niemeyer, Jr.

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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 summer activities winding down why not come on out for some serious end of the year bench racing. Remember, the club provides a nice variety of appetizers and a full range of complimentary soft drinks and coffee. For those that want a full meal before the meeting, a full menu is available in the grillroom downstairs.

We are pleased to announce that David Santel, who has taken a very active roll in the region on both the Solo and PDX fronts, came forward to take over Assistant Treasurer duties and will run for Treasurer in '09.

Our Solo Program has been running on all cylinders. Andy and the Solo Committee have been working hard to put on more great events including a last minute Test & Tune before the big PAX event. They have had huge turnouts, with everyone having a great time. Thanks to River Downs for providing us such a great venue, with everyone having such a good time it is too bad more sites aren't available.

The annual Volkswagen/Porsche Reunion '08 was held September 28<sup>th</sup> at G.E. Park. Brian Walker again headed up the Cincinnati Region display with lots of assistance from Jill Roeder and board member Doug Duddey. Several other members were there helping to spread our message at the booth to a large variety of interested enthusiasts. Brian does a great job making sure everyone gets the word on what SCCA has to offer, often including the excitement of his own personal experience. The show is a fun display of interesting VW's and some very nice Porsches including a beautiful and rare 904. It was my first visit and I really enjoyed some of the more esoteric VW's, especially some the old buses on display. Bill Sr. and Anne had the '57 Speedster out for the show.

Don't forget the Great Lakes Division Roundtable, the planning process for the 2009 road race season, that we are very fortunate to have close by. Neighbors to the north Western Ohio (WOR) are organizing this year's event that will take place at the Holiday Inn Prestige Plaza at I-75 and S.R.725 (Exit 44 Miamisburg/Centerville). Here is a chance to enjoy a good time and meet folks from other GLD regions and learn how they do their events and get involved in building the '09 schedule this November 1, 2008.

It is time to start planning for next year's Cincinnati Region events and committees. Our region has an exciting future as the Bluegrass Road Course comes on line, our strong Solo program continues and we have our big event at Mid Ohio next year offering tons of close by opportunities for motorsports events.

(continued on page 4)

**Next Newsletter**

**Deadline:**

**Tuesday, November 4**

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

## Minutes of the September 16, 2008 Meeting of the Cincinnati Region Sports Car Club of America

Board members in attendance were Scott Tengen., Bill Niemeyer Jr., E.B. Lunken, Chipp Swindler, Jerry Cabe, Doug Dudley, Kurt Niemeyer, Todd Cholmondeley, and Brian Walker. Also in attendance were David Santel and Barney Powers.

The meeting was called to order by Scott Tengen.

On the motion of Jerry Cabe, with Brian Walker seconding, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

In the race report, Todd Cholmondeley distributed a copy of the entry list, and reported to the board on the total income from the race. He noted that he received a survey from Adam Fisher at Mid-Ohio, but that no dates for the 2009 season had been set. The board went over the Observer Report from Steward of the Meet, Doug Mildon, and discussed the possibility of including other race classes at next year's race.

In the PDX report, Bill Niemeyer Jr. distributed a summary of the revenue and expense from the event. On the motion of Kurt Niemeyer, with Todd Cholmondeley seconding, the report was tabled. The board also discussed the organization and future of the event.

David Santel gave the solo report for Andy Stanford. There were 109 entries at the Sept. 7 event. The next event is Sept. 21 at River Downs. He told the board that the use of a lot at Xavier University has received the approval of the appropriate staff, and is awaiting action by the university board of trustees. On the motion of Kurt Niemeyer, with Brian Walker seconding, the board approved the payment of \$106.50 to River Downs for fence repairs.

In new business, Bill Niemeyer Jr. appointed David Santel as assistant treasurer.

In old business, E.B. Lunken told the board that he is having trouble scheduling a meeting of the audit committee.

On the motion of Brian Walker, with Kurt Niemeyer seconding, the meeting was adjourned.

## ***Makin' Tracks: The Bluegrass Road Course Update***

Kurt Niemeyer, Bluegrass Motorsports Club and Road Course

As the Autumnal Equinox passed recently I became depressed that winter is just around the corner: I despise winter with the cold, damp, short days, gray colors of the horizon, and the lack of motorsports; it is all disturbing. But then the thought of how exciting it will be when the Spring Equinox occurs on March 20, 2009, and several other spring features always lift the spirits. The daylight hours exceed the dark. The flora begins its growing season. The temperature rises and sports car racing returns to the northern reaches of the United States. Spring brings a rebirth of the old and the birth of the new and next Spring will provide us with many new aspects in our lives: a new President, a new SCCA Director for our area and a brand new race track just a short drive southwest of Cincinnati.

Bluegrass Road Course is still on schedule to open in SPRING 2009. On October 3, 2008 the construction superintendent stated that their dynamic schedule had them slightly ahead of schedule. To bring you up to date: the paving has started; by the time you read this the pit-lane will be paved and other parts of the track will have an asphalt surface. Brad Poppell and his team at the Bluegrass Road Course have excavated the course providing a clear shape of the track layout and it is an exciting layout. The banked "Monza" corner will feature two different degrees of banking: steeper banking for the higher lines that is de rigueur in this day for banked tracks, this parabolic will exit onto a short straight that brings you to a right hand hairpin that tightens its radius and provide an excellent passing opportunity. After exiting the hairpin a short straight section takes you to a ninety left that leads to a zero gravity moment as you traverse the esses. The uphill section into the last corner and "pit in" becomes downhill as you come onto the 3200' front straight and blast past the pits. Several options on track configuration are integral with the main straight, adding corners to offer a variety of tracks for different events. Check out the variety of configurations on [www.drivebluegrass.com](http://www.drivebluegrass.com).

There is a strong interest in memberships and many of you have joined the Bluegrass Motorsports Club, we appreciate that. We had contemplated a "drive the dirt" event for members, unfortunately this event has been scrapped due to the speed of the construction. There is not a day that will allow anyone to drive the dirt, the track is cut into the surface and as soon as the gravel is laid the pavement is down within literally hours. As Brad and his team have repeatedly stated the paving will be accomplished in AUTUMN 2008 and the facility will OPEN in SPRING 2009. The construction crew has over two dozen pieces of machinery moving simultaneously; eleven scrapers aided by bulldozers, huge shovels, drilling machines, giant dump trucks, compactors, vehicles you are accustomed to seeing only on government funded projects are working to finish this track. The Bluegrass Road Course is one of the biggest road building projects in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2008.

As Autumn 2008 continues so does the paving and construction at Bluegrass Motorsports Club and Road Course in preparation for opening in SPRING 2009. If you have any questions, would like to schedule an event or become a member please contact me at 513.304.1177 or

[kurt@drivebluegrass.com](mailto:kurt@drivebluegrass.com).



## How P L Newman touched Cincinnati Region

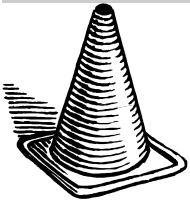
Anne Niemeyer

In recent weeks we have all heard and/or read the many accolades to P.L. "Paul" Newman. We know his "passion" for sports car racing came later in his life after being trained by Bob Bondurant for the movie "Winning". When he entered his first SCCA race at Lime Rock, former long time Cincinnati Region members Ray and Edie Thompson witnessed his effort to use a pseudonym to register. The registrar of course recognized him and told him that was illegal to do so for insurance purposes. Paul reluctantly said, "Just put me down as P.L. Newman. I just want to go racing like everyone here."

Bill Niemeyer Sr. was crewing for Cincinnati Region FV racer Slim Helson at the 1973 Runoffs® at Road Atlanta. Slim had a very serious accident when he and another car touched wheels at the end of the back straight and went hard into the red clay bank at the entrance to the bridge turn. He was rushed by ambulance to an Atlanta hospital. Bill took charge of the wrecked Zink FV at impound and who other than Paul Newman rushed over to Bill anxious to learn of Slim's condition.

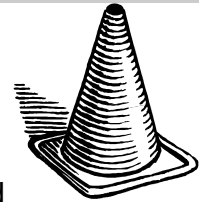
Later that week I arrived in Atlanta and had the privilege of meeting PLN during lunch break as he awaited time to climb into his Datsun 510 race car for his first of his fourteen SCCA Run-offs®. Yes his eyes were blue and he was a very congenial and humble gentleman. He did not give autographs, but pictures were permitted and I do treasure mine.

P.S. Paul was still an active SCCA Member when he passed away, holding a National Competition License until Jan of '08.



## Between the Cones

Andy Stanford, Solo Chair



It's been a busy month here in the Solo department! It all started with the September 21<sup>st</sup> points event, which was a resounding success! There were 73 competitors, great weather, lots of good times and competition to boot!

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Cincy Region hosted a Test and Tune/Drivers school. There were 35 drivers signed up and instructed in the fine art of "Go Fast" by our own panel of expert drivers. Danny Popp headed up the instructors, and was joined by Bryan Schafer, Paul Williams, Greg Lloyd, David Santel, Tom O'Gorman, Brian Crouch and Tony Wiesenbahn. Dennis Barnes was on hand as Safety Steward and instructed also. I hope I am not forgetting anyone! The day is a blur! There were so many runs made that one entrant swears he put over 20 miles on the odometer! The event went very well and raised a bit of money for the Solo program, but more importantly, it furthered our program and provided our members with some much needed "seat time".

On the very next day, October 5<sup>th</sup>, Cincinnati hosted a joint points event for ourselves and Western Ohio Region. It was our 7<sup>th</sup> points event of the year and we capped it off with the "First Annual Pax Challenge", a multi-regional competition to see which club could post the fastest Pax Index times. Central Kentucky region fielded a strong team also. The shootout was hot and heavy, but in the end your Cincinnati region grabbed the victory! All the details and times and scores are on the website: [www.cincyscca.com](http://www.cincyscca.com) on the Solo Page.

Our last event of the year is on October 19<sup>th</sup>, at River Downs and promises to be more of the same: great times, great competition and great company! Come on down.

Be sure to join us online at the Autocross Forum, links are on the home page, and on the Solo Page of our Club site!

Until next month - Keep it safe.

The SCCA Run-offs® became the end of the racing season in the mid sixties (yes, even in the good old days there was a cry for a season ending playoff) with the event alternating between Daytona and Riverside, CA the week of Thanksgiving. In 1970 the venue changed to the then brand new Road Atlanta course where a new record low temperature of 14°F was promptly set. They remained there through 1993 when they were moved to Mid Ohio for the '94 edition. Interestingly, Bill Niemeyer Sr. ran the first Runoffs at Atlanta and Bill Jr. ran the last.

## Car Show Update

Brian Walker

We had a beautiful day and a great turn out for the **VW / Porsche show**. I don't know how many cars showed up but I would say over 100. We had our booth set up in a great location and had 3 Cincy member cars next to us. I noticed at least 8 Cincy members in attendance. We had some interest in the club and I think we will be seeing these people attending some races in the future. We finally gave away the last of the water bottles! I believe that is a wrap for the season of car shows but if anyone knows of any events that we should set up a booth at please contact me.

## Continued from Page 1

We are approaching the time we elect our new officers and we would like to spread out the responsibilities to some new people who can offer their ideas and talents. If you are interested and can't join us at the MRBC for the regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, please contact meeting nominating chair Claire Frimming and/or Todd Cholmondeley or one of the board members (emails & numbers on page 1). Anyone on the current BOD will be glad to discuss any position in which you may be interested. It is really a great way to add more to your SCCA experience.

See you Tuesday at the beautiful Mill Race Banquet Center, just about a mile west of Winton on Sharon.

Bill Jr.

**Thanks to all our sponsors  
& volunteers who helped  
make our Mid Ohio events  
a BIG success!!!**

**Special thanks go out to:**

**Jim & Jennie Morsch  
at Continental Motorsports**

**Phil Keirn  
at Keirn Motorsport Enterprises**

**Bill Braucksick  
at Performance Alignment**

**Brad Poppell  
at Bluegrass Road Course**

## Membership Report

By: Jerry Cabe

373 Members as of 10-01-2008



# Great Lakes Division Roundtable 2008 Tentative Schedule

Friday, October 31, 2008

7:00-9:00 Registration & *Western Ohio Region Hospitality (food, drink and fun!)*

Saturday, November 1, 2008

7:00-8:00 a.m. Registration

Time	Meeting Room	Meeting Room	Meeting Room
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	DA meeting	
8:00-8:15 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, etc.		
8:15-9:15 a.m.	Town Hall Open Forum		
9:30-10:30	2009 Race Scheduling	Solo Open Forum	Worker's Open Forum
	<b>BREAK</b>		
10:45-11:45 a.m..	2009 Race Scheduling Continued	Solo Open Forum Continued	Worker's Open Forum Continued
12:00-1:00	<b>LUNCH</b>		
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Street Survival Seminar	Race Chairman 101	Rally Cross Meeting
.	<b>BREAK</b>		
2:30-4:00 p.m.	Regional Champ series Meeting	Great Lakes Division REs and Officers	Region's Open Forum
4:00 p.m.	Closing and Wrap-up		

Sunday, November 2, 2008

Ask any Western Ohio Region member for details and directions about great ways to spend your Sunday before heading home.

## Board positions need filling and you may be the person for the job!

That's right, the Cincinnati Region is currently looking for a few good men and women to help lead us in 2009. October 21<sup>st</sup> is nomination night with elections being held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are currently looking to fill several positions.

**Secretary:** This is a one year term that consists of taking the Board meeting minutes and supplying a report for the Board and the CinChronizer. This position is a voting member of the Board.

**Board Member at Large :** This is a two year term that consists of showing up at the Board of Directors meetings and giving input on various subjects and is a voting member of the Board.

**Regional Executive:** Though Bill Niemeyer Jr. is running for this position again in 2009 he would love to have some competition for the job. This is a one year term that consists of Running the Board of Director meetings, going to the Great Lakes Division Roundtable in November, the SCCA National Convention in January and the Great Lakes Division Spring Training in March. Travel and accommodation expenses are supplemented by the Cincinnati Region SCCA. You will be in contact with the other Regional Executives that make up the Great Lake Division as well as SCCA National.

**Assistant Regional Executive:** This is a one year term that consists of assisting the Regional Executive with various duties and running the Board of Director Meetings in the absence of the R.E.

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Claire Frimming at [cyalatr2004@yahoo.com](mailto:cyalatr2004@yahoo.com) or Todd Cholmondeley at [tefkatt@aol.com](mailto:tefkatt@aol.com)

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21st  
at Mill Race Banquet Center on W. Sharon Road  
west of Winton Rd. in Winton Woods

## Coming A-TRACK-tions

### October

- 5 - Solo Points Event #7 Cincy/WOR, River Downs
- 19 - Solo Points Event #8, River Downs
- 21 - Monthly Meeting 8:30 pm

### November

- 1 - GLD Round Table
- 18 - Monthly Meeting 8:30 pm



### **Solo**

With the '08 Solo Nationals coming to a close, a little history from the 1976 "CinChronizer" is appropriate. Solo Two Nationals were held in Columbus, OH. Bill Porter, still actively campaigning, was one of thirteen from Cincinnati Region to participate.