

Aug/Sept 2013

CinChronizer



Cincinnati Region S.C.C.A.

RE-Port

By Regional Executive, Tony Brown

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“Thank you, sir! May I have another?” If you know this line from the movie “Animal House”, then you know that funny quote is a way to explain the feeling that a lot of Cincinnati Region members have right now at this point in our racing season. An insanely busy schedule to the point of exhaustion, but would gladly sign up to do it again!

Since our last CinChronizer in July we have had some great events up in Wilmington at the Air Park. Our Solo Committee had the monumental task of hosting a test & tune, fun event and an SCCA National Tour event all within 9 days!!! Let alone all of the planning, set-up and tear down that went into the actual events that was done behind the scenes. Kudos to all of the members of the Solo Committee and the volunteers/entrants that participated and helped the events to be successful. And the schedule is swiftly moving thru the rest of the summer with the final Points events of the season on 8/25 & 9/15 and a tentative end of season fun event on 10/6!

The 2013 I.T. Spectacular weekend is in the record books! Mother Nature was also a race fan over the weekend at Mid-Ohio as the PDX, Club Trial and Races all enjoyed beautiful racing weather (Now the tow up on Thursday, well that's another story.....)! Once again, our stellar race committee put on one heck of an event. I heard many compliments throughout the weekend. A full recap of the events is inside!

On a much more somber note, another one of our great members took his “Final Checkers” much too soon. Mike Kolthoff passed away on August 1st. Our continued prayers are with his wife Lori and family. He was a friend to many racers throughout our racing community over the years. As you'll read in the recap of the I.T. Spectacular, while at Mid-Ohio there were several tributes & events in memory of our fallen friends Mike Kolthoff and John Peterson.

Because our print deadlines for assembling the monthly CinChronizer and our event schedules this year have not proven to be nice to each other, this issue of the CinChronizer is a little late in order to cover the previous month's racing activities. So mark your calendar for our next General Meeting on September 24th!

As our 2013 Events Schedule is racing towards the finish line, there are still some opportunities to get out on the road and participate in some great events! Make sure to check our website & forum for the latest updates. And once again, if you see something you would like to get involved in but haven't tried it yet, contact one of our event chairs or send me a message! Remember, this is YOUR club, enjoy it!

See you soon where the rubber meets the road,
Tony Brown

“If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough” - M. Andretti

**Next
Newsletter
Deadline:
Tuesday,
August 6th**

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

Race Chair Report

By Jerry Cabe

Well, the 2013 edition of the IT/SPEC*acular has just completed, and was pulled off successfully, thanks to the efforts of too many to thank here. After taking out the withdrawals, we had 96 participants in the four race groups on Saturday, and 103 in the five Sunday race groups. This is lighter than in prior years, but that is a common theme throughout the division for 2013. This year our three day event included the F1600 and F2000 SCCA Pro each running two events of their series. It is fun to watch the aspiring young drivers. Also included were the region's Performance Driving Experience (PDX) and a Club Trial (Levels 1 and 2 of the Time Trial Program). We also hosted an Alternate Drivers School that allowed one student to satisfy the observed driving school portion of his Club Race Novice Permit.

The weekend started off with the PDX on Friday. Many familiar faces and cars were seen along with a good mix of first-timers (Novices). Operating throughout the day with a fixed schedule allowed everyone to have plenty of track time during their four sessions.

The highlight of my weekend was when I attended the Saturday morning Worker's Meeting and saw just a sea of white. Because our event is sandwiched between two pro events at Mid-Ohio this year, I had been concerned that worker burnout might limit the number of experienced volunteers. But just the opposite – the LEC Flagchief indicated he had more corner workers than for the Indy Car event the week before. Corner workers came from Georgia, Michigan, St Louis, and Canada in addition to the LEC crew that routinely support Mid-Ohio and Nelson Ledges events. It was comforting to know that the drivers were going to be in good hands for our event.

The opening sessions for the Club Racers started Saturday morning with qualifying for the IT/SPEC*acular classes (all Improved Touring classes, Spec Racer Ford and Spec Miata) among four race groups. The first race for the Club Racers was Saturday afternoon. Saturday also incorporated the Club Trial group's morning practice session, followed by two timed sessions in the afternoon. Due to an oversight on my part in the morning, the Club Trial participants ran the Pro Course (without the chicane prior to the keyhole). Something new for them, but everyone adjusted and liked it to the point that they opted to run the Pro Course for the afternoon sessions. At lunchtime a tree and plaque were dedicated to the memory of long time Cincy Region member and Steward, John "JP" Peterson. For the F1600 Series Race after lunch, a "missing man" formation was driven by the field in honor of Michael Kolthoff, another long-term Cincy Region member who recently passed away. Lori Kolthoff, Michael's widow, waived the Green Flag to start the field for the 1600's on the backstretch. Afterwards, the first of the three races for the Club Racers entered in the IT/SPEC*acular were held.

The first day of racing was capped off with the Saturday evening party, which was dedicated to the memory of Michael Kolthoff. Nancy Schillace offered a nice prayer for the family and friends of Michael. Spaghetti dinner with cold beverages were welcome by all. I won't go into any detailed stories of Saturday evening, but will say – don't believe everything you see and read on Facebook.

Sunday's activities started with Race 2 of the IT/SPEC*acular, a qualifying race for each group along with another morning qualifying for the SCCA Pro Formula Series. Sunday also added another race group comprising classes commonly referred to as "wings and things" (sports racers and the smaller formula cars with wings). Both Pro Series had their second race and the Club Racers finished with their third race. Gold, silver, and bronze colored medallions were given to the podium finishers in each class for the individual races. A points system was utilized with each participant's finishing position for each of the three races to determine the champions for the IT/SPEC*acular. Trophy hats were presented to the top three positions in each class.

Not official yet, but some of the SCCA track records for the Mid-Ohio 2.258 mile Pro Course were broken this year. In a hard-fought battle all weekend in SM, Frank Todaro beat Mark Bennett's 2009 track record on Saturday, only to have his short lived record bettered by Brian Murdick in the Sunday morning race. In Sunday's ITC race, Bill Shearer, Jim Hardesty, Jason Jacko, and Jim Royal Sr. all bettered the old track record, but topping them was Jim Royal Jr. to claim the new record. The weather cooperated for mid-August, being dry most of the time without oppressive heat/humidity. Sacrificing the chickens must work.

Again, Thanks to everyone that helped pull this spectacular event together. All the comments I received were very positive. **Be proud to be part of the SCCA Cincinnati Region.**

Many Memories

By Roger Many



The Cincinnati Region SCCA was formed and chartered in 1956 after a number of local members wanted to breakaway from the Ohio Valley Region. A couple of years later, it was decided that our newly formed region needed a logo to better identify our new group. Such a regional logo would be used on dash plaques, banners and stationery. In 1958 a design contest was conducted to arrive at this new logo design. A young member by the name of Jack Dutiel came up with the winning design. Jack was attending UC at the time and drove a MG-TD. His logo design consisted of a three eared wheel knock-off with the Cincinnati Region spelled around the perimeter. The SCCA club name ran across the center section. This same logo continues to be used today by the Cincinnati Region.

Little known facts: There were probably more Ferrari cars raced out of the Cincinnati area than anywhere else.

Next month: Our local gal racers and where we raced.



Remembering our deceased racing comrades



Michael Robert Kolthoff 1958-2013

by Rick Barger



I met Mike at a Mid-Ohio Skip Barber school that he, Ed Silva and I attended in 1983. Although we both belonged to the Cincinnati Region, our paths had not really crossed until then. We all thought we were pretty talented but endured harsh criticisms from one arrogant instructor who had no real racing credentials and wore silly flip flops.

These were dismissed by us all but they bothered Mike enough that at the graduation ceremony he asked the instructor if he would be wasting his time pursuing racing. He replied with the only praise I heard from him the entire school, "No, you're pretty talented".

Mike went road racing right after the school while Ed & I continued to autocross for a couple of years before jumping into road racing. We viewed Mike as one of the FF veterans along with local legends Terry Hohencker, Dave Hamann & Dale Beeler. Mike was welcoming and supportive of us as "newbies" and we paddocked together, helped work on each others' cars and partied at the end of the day.

My first June Sprints, Mike & I traveled together, suffering through horrible Chicago traffic. We paddocked together, poking fun at the elderly, pipe smoking gents next to us trying to get an MG to run properly. Mike crashed & took a trip to the hospital. I blew up my tow vehicle on the way home.

Then at the first Runoffs held at Road America we had to thrash on the engine all week. Every electrical part we could get to on the car was swapped out. Some twice. With the help of an ancient Heathkit oscilloscope and a clever Hank Bukoski, an offending spark plug was eventually found. I felt bad for having ridiculed the gents with the MG years ago.

Difficult situations like these brought us close in misery but determined to conquer. That forged a tight bond of friendship. Further strengthening this bond were the many more really fun times.

We enjoyed many a dinner at the original Buck's in Lexington. This included sharing a pizza on the fateful night it burned down. We were devastated driving by the smoking remains the next morning. The pizza box we took our leftovers home in remains in Mike's trailer.

We also enjoyed drinks and bench racing at Siebken's and Old Fashions and prime rib at Swartz's Supper Club on trips to Road America. Mike was proud to have been one of the first local racers to run the prestigious June Sprints at Road America. It was one of his favorite race tracks and he held the FF track record there for a while.

I'm sure this isn't news to those who knew him, but Mike was a guy who liked to have a good time, knew how to have a good time and enjoyed sharing those good times. It didn't matter if it was at the race track, at a ball game or just hanging out. Being with Mike always guaranteed a good time. As a result, other folks gravitated to Mike and I got to hang out with some semi-famous racing drivers and track personalities. One of the most memorable was a National Championship Runoffs at Mid-Ohio where the well known Road & Track author and insightful pundit, Peter Egan, drank Guinness in our paddock and regaled us with humorous and entertaining stories well into the night.

No matter the location or the circumstance, and we endured some pretty bad ones, we always managed to have a good time. Maybe I just have low standards. More likely being with Mike made the environment less important. Mike wanted his epitaph to be "he always had a good time". And that he did.

Mike was also a guy who liked to look forward. He had christened a summer a few years ago as the "summer of Mike" when he was in between jobs. The term should be familiar to fans of Seinfeld but unlike George's, Mike's summer was memorable. After his diagnosis, he joked that this would be "the summer of Mike" part two. Almost black humor but it was heartening to see him still looking forward. He bought a new ball glove & pitch back, planning trips to take with Lori and dreaming about buying a "bucket list" car. Always looking forward. That was Mike.

A very talented artist, Mike painted many race helmets. One of those is the "chili pepper" helmet he painted for me. It's one of my most prized possessions. Mike had several helmets on the production line when he got diagnosed with throat cancer. Mike told me he had two goals. To finish these helmets and eat a cheeseburger. He fought valiantly and gave his best because that was Mike.

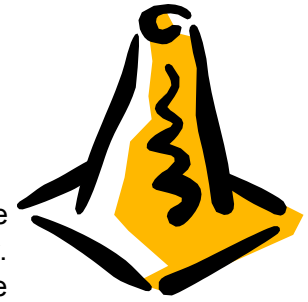
Unfortunately, he was unable to accomplish either. So the next time you have a cheeseburger, send the enjoyment along to Mike.



Between the Cones

Solo Report

By: Shari McCoy and Nathan Roberts



The solo season is slowly winding down. The end of July and the beginning of August were very busy in the solo community. During the weekend of July 27 and 28 we held two events on the pad at Wilmington. These were a great sneak peak of the phenomenal site that we were going to be using for the National Championship Tour the following week. The feed back from the two weekends was amazing! Everyone who attended the events had a great time and loved the site. Congratulations to all of our local class winners and all of those who trophied at the National event. There are only three more solo events on the calendar for the 2013 season. Our next event is a joint event with WOR and will be held at KilKare raceway in Xenia Ohio on Sunday, August 25. This will be our seventh points event of the season. Following that, we are hosting a Great Lakes Divisional event which will also be our final points event of the season on Sunday September 15 at the Wilmington employee lot. Our final event of the year is going to be a fun event also to be held on the employee lot at the Wilmington Airpark. The date for this event is Sunday, October 6. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.



Worker Party
2013 Mid-Ohio

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The PDX Report by Brian Walker

Well, the 2013 Performance Driving Experience is in the books and there are still many smiling faces left from the event. We saw fewer first timers but much more experienced drivers than expected. In total, we had between 90 - 95 drivers attend the event. We had about 9 people take rides with instructors. A scare of rain thru out the weekend was only minimal with just spotty showers that didn't effect the event. The Ferrari Club also attended again this year and they brought out some beautiful machinery as well as some much appreciated donations for the ALS Auction that Bob Cowie ran in garage 1. Jeff Loewe again provided numerous fantastic photos for participants to purchase. Thanks, Jeff! A special thanks goes out to Brian Rush, Jill Roeder, Jerry & Colleen Cabe, Barney Powers, E.B Lunken, Bill Niemeyer, and Dave Howard. Without you the event would not have happened.

I want to take this opportunity to say how much the SCCA is like a big family to me and when unfortunate circumstances arrive there is a tremendous outpouring of help that is offered up freely just because we care. *What a great group of people!*

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 24th

Coming A-*TRACK*-tions

September

15 - Points Event #8 Wilmington Lot
24 - Monthly Meeting
(note the date change)

October

6 - End of Season Fun Event
15 - Monthly Meeting

November

19 - Monthly Meeting



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