

Open Exhaust

The Official Publication of the Detroit Region Sports Car Club of America

Vol 55 no 1 WINTER 2011



The recently restored Robert Collins Memorial Trophy presented annually to the outstanding racing competitor from the previous year. From the Detroit Region SCCA Awards Banquet – January 22nd, 2011

Photo by Scott Harvey

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- Open Exhaust editor: Scott Harvey scott@teamharco.com
- Other Chiefs and Officials are listed on the region website www.detroit-scca.org

2010 Award Winners

Perpetual award winners:

Regional Driver of the Year: Joe Moser

National Driver of the Year: Danny Kellermeyer

Robert Collins (Outstanding Racing Competitor): Jon Staudacher

Ira Garfunkel (Outstanding Sportsmanship and Excellence): Kevin Royce

Robert Siegmund (Contribution to the Advancement of the Detroit Region): Scott Harvey, Jr

Karl Pel (in Recognition of promoting our sport and the Region): Ken Wiedbusch

Tom Hallock (New Member Contributing to the Club): Jon Jareo

Race Worker of the Year: John Lakatos

Chris Lindberg Memorial (Solo Sportsmanship Award): Eric Penn

Tom Bell Memorial (Rally Enthusiast): Mary and Jerry Shiloff

Solo Enthusiast: Mike Canary

RallyCross Enthusiast: Jennifer Glass

Team Dynamics race wheels: Drawn from class winners registered at RallyCross events

RallyCross Team Dynamics Challenge: Jon Armstrong



The Detroit Region's twelve elected or appointed officials for 2011. Left to right: Ray Jason, Aaron Usher, Bob Pierson, Nathan Usher, Brian Sumeracki, Eric Penn, Steve Balanecki, Brian Thorpe, Patrick Barber, Jennifer Glass, Scott Harvey and Bob Martin.

Thayer Automotive Re-ups Sponsorship for 2011



Detroit Region SCCA is pleased to announce that Ralph Thayer Automotive (Hyundai-Mazda-VW) of Livonia, Michigan will again be the sponsor of the 2011 Detroit Region RallyCross Series. In addition, Thayer Automotive will continue their sponsorship of the 2WD Challenge at each of the region's events. The National Challenge event on July 9-10, 2011 at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Marshall, Mi, will also be sponsored by Thayer Automotive. We would like to thank Thayer Automotive for their continuing support of automotive sports in the Detroit area.

Please visit Thayer Automotive at 34501 Plymouth Road (between Farmington & Wayne Roads) in Livonia, MI or at their web site www.thayerauto.com.

It's a New Year - Welcome to 2011

The last couple of years were not the greatest in many ways. Economic, political, and environmental upheavals have wreaked havoc in so many ways, for so many. The Detroit area has really been hit hard in the financial and political arenas. The economy has also taken its toll on Detroit region members and those around them. But there's hope for the future. The 2011 motorsport season is already off to a flying start here in the Detroit Region.

We have had a Road Rally, a RallyCross, the awards banquet and the National Convention. There are articles or summaries of each in this issue. We've got a lot of great events planned and a lot of room to continue the growth of the past few years. Hopefully this will be a turn-around year for the Solo segment. A lot of work has already begun to make 2011 a better year than the past two.

On the racing side, the PDX is back on the calendar and we are expecting this to be the beginning of a solid program that will provide the members a performance driving experience (hence PDX) that fits between Solo and Road Racing. The Rally and RallyCross programs are both going strong and that trend is expected to continue. There is great news in the form of a new RallyCross site much closer to the metro Detroit area. The new site is in South Lyon and the maiden voyage is planned for June 11th (the day after the PDX).

We also have news on worker points and new members in this issue. Please welcome our newest members to the club and help them find fun and variety in the activities that only the Detroit SCCA can offer. And finally, we received a note in one of the 2011 ballots from one of our longest standing members. It would be very interesting to get some of the history that must surely be in the experiences and memories of Mr. Edward Jones.

And as always – this *is* your newsletter. My requests for material have, for the large part, gone unanswered. Jen Glass (our Regional Executive) has provided me with a short summary of the National Convention and Steve Balanecki submitted details on options for using worker points. What about the rest of you? Haven't you got something you'd like to say? How about some photos? The last issue was full of great submissions. This issue is a little bit thin on that. So this time around you're going to get a bunch of filler, courtesy of the editor. Enjoy.

REport from the SCCA National Convention

By Jennifer Glass, Regional Executive

The 2011 SCCA National Convention was held February 9-12, 2011 in Las Vegas, NV at the Southpoint Casino and Convention Center. Detroit Region members who attended included Jennifer Glass, Patrick Barber, Jennifer Merideth, Marcus Merideth and Rick Myers. The event consisted of a variety of 60-90 minute workshops ranging from Administration, Region Business, National Club Business, and specific seminars for Rally, Club Racing and Solo.

The overarching theme was customer service, summed up by the phrase "Give 'em the PICKLE!". PICKLES are those special or extra things you do to make people happy. It's a hand written thank you note with every order shipped. It's walking the customer to the item they're looking for rather than pointing... or maybe it's simply calling them by name. The trick is figuring out what your customers want and then making sure they get it. That's the message behind Give 'em the PICKLE! (The) Above information comes from www.giveemthepickle.com. Clubs need to figure out what their PICKLES are so that they can give their customers the experience they want and keep them coming back (i.e., membership retention). One of the great things about the Detroit Region is we have lots of different kinds of PICKLES—solo, rallycross, rally, a great race-worker community, and coming soon PDX!

We should be proud that the Detroit Region won a Region Achievement (Overall program excellence including growth, retention and variety of program and events) award from among the Jumbo regions for our membership growth of 1% and weekend membership conversion of 81%. Other kudos include the RallyCross Divisional Achievement award for the GLD, in part for our well-organized Eastern States Championship that was hosted by the Detroit Region. The Solo Divisional of the Year was awarded to the Great Lakes Division (Velma Boreen) and Matt Braun was recognized for winning the Solo Triad Award for 2011.

We learned about a new online motorsports registration system: motorsportreg.com.

Motorsportreg.com has been selected as the registration system to be used on all national events including Club Racing and National Solo events (Pro Solo, National Tour, and National Championship). We will be giving serious consideration to Motorsportreg.com for our events, so stay tuned for more information on this front.

The national office wants to better track what their members are doing when they participate in SCCA events. In the near future, results will be reported to the national office including membership numbers of the participants. That way, they can tell how many members take part in solo, rally, rallycross, club racing etc... Seems like a good idea to me.

Starting soon, we should each be getting emails from SCCA (if they have an email address for you) alerting you to upcoming SCCA events in your geographic area.

Son of Sno*Drift XIII – Road Rally

Jan. 8, 2011 (S/F) Waterford, MI

Words and photos by Scott Harvey

The weather for a winter rally is usually a big part of the story. This year was no different. During the week just after Christmas, as I went looking for a few new roads and deciding on the route, the roads were in ideal condition. There was plenty of snow and ice, and just enough dirt to offer grip when you absolutely had to have it. Then along came the forecast for New Year's Eve – warm and in the 50s with a lot of rain. This was the day that Jerry Shiloff and I did the safety check. The roads were still a little slippery in spots; in fact one road was practically glare ice. But the temperatures were to hold above freezing for another day or two, then drop below, and stay below, freezing for the next week. My fear was that the roads would be frozen dirt. This would offer excellent traction and make the assigned speeds quite boring. Fortunately, the weather gods smiled on us and we got about 3 to 4 inches of snow late in the week and the roads were brought back to register high on the fun-meter. It reminded me of the movie "Patton"; where a priest was summoned to write a prayer for a change in the weather. Rather than praying for a break in immoderate weather so that we could better kill our fellow man, we were hoping for a break from the lack of precipitation (to better put our cars at risk?).

With the roads and the weather in our favor, we got the usual good turnout of both competitors and workers. 37 competitors signed up with a very balanced mix among the classes. There were 9 in E, 8 in L and 10 each in S and N. Not all was rosy though. Car #1, Kurt Dost/ John Fishbeck had issues even before the start. On the way to the rally, they realized they had a nonfunctional windshield washer. To add further insult, they were involved in a fender-bender while registration and the gathering of the clan was taking place.



A couple of the trophies awarded at Son of Sno*

Jeff and Mike Bennett with an exuberant entrance to control #8 (2 early)

For the most part things went quite well. However there were some minor incidents of workers sliding a bit off-course and a few organizational and clerical goofs. One thing that wasn't anticipated, was a bridge that disappeared between when the route was laid out and when the rally actually was run. A quick shift in the route to follow the posted detour got the competitors back on the intended route with little drama. Running in front of the competitors has certain advantages, such as finding detours, but it also means missing out on many of the more interesting events that take place. So to fill in some of the blanks, I usually rely on the "reason for delay request" on the T/A (Time Allowance) slips. Many were for local traffic. Some were for missed turns, including car numbers 2, 14, 17, 18 (three times!), 24 (twice!). Staying ahead in the instructions can help in many cases; but also odometer error will contribute to this with the stock odo and/or lots of wheel slip. Next year I plan to reduce this cumulative error by having more places for the competitors to re-zero their odometers.

There were also some traction related issues that were noted by some. #28 "too slow", #11 "sliding", #25 "ditch", #21 "following car that could not get up hill", #24 "car stuck blocked way". And then there were some real traction related issues. All of the following are from #31: "slick" (leg 1), "slick" (leg 2), "slick & RWD = OMG!" (leg 4), "slick & RWD = FAILZ" (leg 12), "slick" (leg 13), "slick" (leg 16). Wow! These guys need to see me about tires. Whatever they were using for rubber was not cutting it. No T/As in section 3 though. Maybe they found a way to come to grips (pun intended) with their traction limitations.

Here's another car that needs proper winter tires, and maybe a little more; all from #27: "low traction event", "navi is a dolt", "traction trouble, timing trouble, local traffic" (the trifecta), "bad tires! low traction!", "navigator error" and finally, "slow rally traffic". There are all sorts of things going on here. Good tires would be a wise investment.

The two best T/A reasons – as voted on.....by me, go to #14 "screw up" and #16 "tape failure". OK now, "screw up" I get. "Tape failure"? I'm not sure what's happening here. Cassette tape? -- Time to get a CD player. Masking tape? What are we painting? Duct tape? Right - that could be it. But what could it be that came undone and created the need for a 6.5 minute delay to get the thing in question re-taped? We may never know. Maybe it's better that way.

This year a new rally series was created, called the WINTR (Winter *IN*Ternational Rally) series, with events in Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, New York, Quebec and Vermont. This new series helped draw a few competitors from outside our normal range. We had entries from Ontario, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and even a team from Kansas! It was great to see so many people traveling from such great distances to join in on our idea of fun. Most that I heard from said they had fun.



Earning a share of the overall victory were Harkcom/ Harkcom Some international flavor, #9 Campbell/ Narini from Ontario

To pull it all together and make it enjoyable for everyone, we rely on a lot of dedicated and competent workers. The following workers made everything go about as well as could be hoped for: Mary and Jerry Shiloff, Jen Glass, David Allan, Bob Martin, Ken Wiedbusch, Rich Line/ Scott Bilknell, John Kytasty/ Jon Chaprnka, Ray Foulkrod/ Phil Smith, Mark Henderson/ Paul Eddleston, Aaron Conner/ Steve Balanecki, Ted Hou/ Les Francisco, Ryan Thompson/ Alvan Allison, and finally, Tom and Peg Woodside. Without the help of such fine folks, this, and other like events would not take place. A special thank you must go out to the management and staff of the Mexico Lindo restaurant. They have been our hosts for over ten years now and they have always treated us great. A nice touch this year was the welcome on the sign out front.

So when all was said and done, and the scores were finalized, the awards were handed out. Third place Novice went to Nick Sullivan and Dave Stefaniak (585). Second in N (445) was taken by Seth Miller and Cameron Hanover (I think they may be nearing the end of the “noviceness” – I am sure they have trophied in Novice previously). Winning Novice were two guys that are active in the solo community – Shawn Alexander and Jason Kolk (364). Hopefully they will be back and also let their solo pals know how much fun we have off-pavement.

In the Stock class Mike Bennett lamented that he made too many mistakes and, along with son Jeff, was only able to lay claim to second place (119). Winning Stock were Adam Spieszny and Piotr Roszczenko (100). In Limited the battle at the front was extremely tight. Taking the win in class, by one point, were Ken Knight and Greg Lester (26). Second in L were Bruce Fisher and Rob Moran (27). At the very top and in Equipped, the results were even closer. In fact they couldn’t get any closer! Tying for overall honors were the teams of Harkcom/ Harkcom and Johnstonbaugh/ von Kaenel, both with 15 total points.



The ever-popular rear-wheel drive Toyota of Kielmann/ Kielmann Doug Shepherd and David Stone zeroing control #8

Welcome New Members

Steve Balanecki, Chief of Membership

We would like to welcome the following new members to our region:

Caitlin Frabutt	Larry Navarre	Nathan Navarre
Ronald Johnstonbaugh	Rose Navarre	Nancy Schilke
Graham Mercer	Joey Navarre	



We look forward to seeing you at some of the many events we have scheduled this year.

January 15 – Chills and Thrills – RallyCross #1 – Crystal Motor Speedway – Crystal, MI

For the second time in a row, the Crystal site was run on both the banked oval track and the grass parking lot. Unlike the first time, the season opener included snow – a lot of snow. The morning session included a loop of the track and then a run out and around the parking area. Most everyone that has run the track really enjoys it. Many of the competitors put their cars into a sprint car-like attitude in the banked turns. The tail will be swung out while the front wheels are turned to counter the slide and keep the car arching through the turn. This makes for great fun for both the driver and those that are watching.

When the snow had settled it looked like DSM (Diamond Star Motors) day in the all-wheel-drive classes. Stock All (SA) was won by Adam Spieszny, PA (Prepared) was taken by Mike Ryba and M4 (Modified) was taken by Scott Harvey. All three cars were first generation Talons or Eclipses. In fact they were the only DSMs entered in a sea of Subaru. We might want to mark this date in history – as it's not likely to be repeated.

In the two-wheel-drive classes, Ford came out the big winner. David Schilke won SR (Stock Rear) in a Ranger, Mark Vojtisek took his Escort to the PF (Prepared Front) win and MR (Modified Rear) was taken by Eric Anderson in a Mustang. Just to be different, Jon Jareo drove a Dodge Charger to the win in PR and Kenneth Tsang ran a VW GTI to victory in Modified Front.

See the results of this and other Detroit Region events in the Downloads section of the website.



Creating a blizzard in his wake is Jonny Walker in his PA Subaru Outback Wagon (1/15/11 – Crystal). Photo by: Ed Frank (Clutch)



John Hutchinson lifts-off in his M4 Subaru Legacy GT

Jay Anderson in the M2 Mustang he and his son, Eric, share

Two shots from the November 6th, 2010 RallyCross at Crystal.

Photos: Scott Harvey

Worker Points and You

By Steve Balanecki, Chief of Membership and Points Keeper

Many members have indicated they are unaware of the opportunities available to them to redeem their worker points. All members having worker points available and an active email address were sent a note from membership@detroit-scca.org advising them of the number of available worker points and ways they could be redeemed.

Each worker point is worth \$5.00 and can be redeemed toward the expense of renewing your membership, registration fees for region events (including the annual banquet), and for merchandise offered by SCCAGear.com and Creative Threads. Links to both SCCAGear.com and Creative Threads are located on the region's website. Please contact me at the above email address if you want more details on how to redeem your available points toward your membership renewal.

Remember that accessing SCCAGear.com from our home page provides us revenue when you place an order. Our region's logo is now available when clicking on the SCCA Region Merchandise link displayed in the list on the left side of their home page. Even better news is that you can now use your Worker Points toward your purchase of any item offered, whether it has our region's logo or not.

Simply click on the Detroit Region link or our logo displayed at the bottom of the page after you click on the SCCA Region Merchandise link. You will notice that there is a link to Detroit Region Worker Points Redemption displayed under Featured Items. Clicking on this link directs you to a page which requires you to enter your Member Number, allows you to enter the number of Worker Points you want to redeem and then add them to your cart. Each Worker Point redeemed will subtract \$5.00 from your total order.

Once your order is submitted to SCCAGear.com, they will contact our Points Keeper to verify you have the number of Worker Points available for redemption. Once your points have been verified then SPS will complete your order. Partial points cannot be used.

Remember to verify you have Worker Points available prior to placing or completing your order. You can view your available Worker Points by selecting the Worker Points link under Region Information on our website.

Upcoming Events (check the website or contact event officials to confirm dates and times)

- **Mar 19 – March Madness RallyCross – Calhoun County Fairgrounds – Marshall.**
Contact: Donna Tompkin. dmtompkin@aol.com
- **Mar 23 (Wed) – General Membership Meeting – Hall of Fame – Dearborn. Contact: Patrick Barber**
- **Mar 26 – Road Rally School – Zuckey Lake Tavern – Pinckney.**
Contact: Mark Henderson. markdhenderson37@wowway.com
- **Apr 9 – Moonlight Monte Road Rally – Chelsea. Contact: Dave Harkcom. rallyedad@aol.com**
- **Apr 28 (Thur) – Solo School Classroom Session – TBD. Contact: Ray Jason**
- **Apr 30 (Sat) – Solo School Driving Session – Belle Isle Park. Contact: Ray Jason**
- **May 1 – Solo Season Opener – Belle Isle Park. Contact: Ray Jason**
- **May 21-22 – SOLOPRO Solo Driving School – Oscoda. Contact: Don Leckey. donleckey@comcast.net**
- **May 21 – Rites of Spring RallyCross – Crystal Motor Speedway – Crystal.**
Contact: Jon Armstrong jharmstro@sbcglobal.net
- **May 30 (Mon) – Memorial Day Solo – Belle Isle Park. Contact: Ray Jason**
- **Jun 10 – Performance Driving Experience (PDX) – Waterford Hills. Contact: Bob Pierson**
- **Jun 11 – Horses of Courses RallyCross – South Lyon. Contact: Scott Harvey**
- **Jun 17-19 – National Pro Solo – Oscoda. Contact: Marcus Merideth marcus@margravemotorsports.com**
- **Jun 24-26 – GLDiv Solo – Wurtsmith AFB – Oscoda. Contact: Ray Jason**
- **Jul 9-10 – RallyCross National – Calhoun County Fairgrounds – Marshall. Contact: Bob Martin**
- **Jul 15-17 – Detroit Region Solo – Oscoda. Contact: Ray Jason**
- **Jul 30 – CAST In Stone Road Rally – Ann Arbor. Contact: Rob Moran. rtmoran2008@yahoo.com**



Desperately seeking the Tom Hallock Trophy

If any member knows the whereabouts, or the last known location of this trophy – please let a region official know.



More photos from the 2010 Detroit SCCA Awards Banquet



Peter Quenet accepts his 45 year service award from Steve Balanecki (Chief of Membership)



Adam Thayer presents the 2010 ThayerAuto.com 2WD Challenge (RallyCross) award to Steve Baumbach



Jerry and Mary Shiloff accept the Tom Bell Memorial Award presented to the Rally Enthusiast of the Year. Ken Wiedbusch, outgoing Rally Director, presenting.



John Lakatos receives the Race Worker of the Year award from Ed Arthur



Race medalists scoring national points within the Great Lakes Division: (l to r) Danny Kellermeyer, Norm Betts, Mark Davidson, Todd Napieralski



Great Lakes Division Regional Race Series medalists – Jim Smalley and Joe Moser

In Memoriam...

....of those that left us too soon: **Mike Canary, Hal Goff, and Joe Andreini, Jr.**



The Solo Enthusiast award was presented (posthumously) to Mike Canary. Accepting the award from the 2011 Solo Director (Ray Jason) is Erik Canary.



Jennifer and Marcus Merideth accept their awards for first and second in the Pro Index Solo class from 2010. Ray Jason presenting.

A real letter to the editor (sort of)

From Edward H. Jones (included in the ballot for the 2011 Directors at Large)

10/25/10

Dear Mr. Martin,

Please convey my compliments to the current officer structure of the Detroit Region, particularly the editor of the Open Exhaust, Scott Harvey, his current issue is the best I have ever received.

Eleven pages of news plus thirteen photographs superlative and very professional.

I have been a member of the Detroit Region for nearly sixty years. I am ninety three years old and still maintain a modest collection of cars. I ran the P.O.R. in the fifties, in my 49-TC and 356 Porsche Coupe.

Best wishes to you and keep up the good work.

Edward Hugh Jones

The check is in the mail, Mr. Jones...



David Schilke on the track in his SR Ford Ranger – November 6th, 2010 RallyCross at Crystal.

Photo: Scott Harvey

Open Exhaust



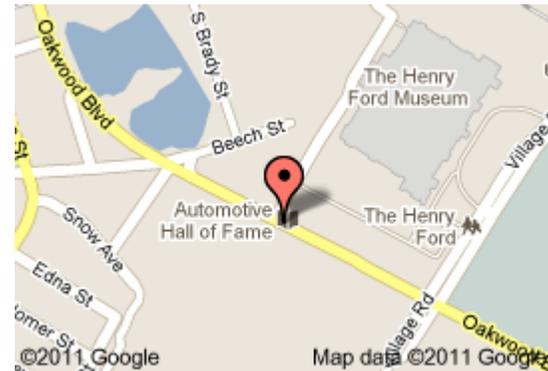
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Announcing: The Annual General Membership Meeting

- **When: Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011. 6:00 – 9:00 PM**
- **Where: The Automotive Hall of Fame.
21400 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48124**
- **What: Membership Meeting, self guided tour of the Automotive Hall of Fame.**
- **Why: Why not? What else do you have going?**



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