

# Open Exhaust



**SCCA**  
Sports Car Club of America



## Detroit Region SCCA 2009 awards banquet – January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

**Come join us for the year-end awards banquet. As always, there will be food, drink and plenty of bench racing. The location was not available at the time of this writing. Notification will be provided via mail and details will also be posted on the region website.**



**Detroit Region SCCA  
P.O. Box 401018  
Redford, MI 48239-1018**

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**Bruce Matthews flinging dirt in his PR class RX-7 at the 10/3 RallyCross at Crystal**

Photo by Scott Harvey

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# Summer Summary

It was quite a summer – the summer of 2009. The Detroit Region put on a great variety of events at a great variety of locations. Below is a brief summary of a few selected events from the summer of 2009.

- **May 13-16 – Formula SAE – Michigan International Speedway.**

*The top 10 teams from the 2009 competition – as submitted by Gary Godula*

- |                                      |                                 |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) TU Graz – Germany                 | 5) UAS Graz – Germany           | 9) U of Michigan Dearborn       |
| 2) Rochester Institute of Technology | 6) University of Missouri Rolla | 10) Centro Universitario da FEI |
| 3) ETS – Canada                      | 7) U of Michigan Ann Arbor      | – Brazil                        |
| 4) Purdue University                 | 8) Georgia Tech                 |                                 |

- **June 13 – 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Triathlon (Solo, RallyCross, Road Rally) – Fowlerville Fairgrounds**

*A little poem by Ken Wiedbusch:*

It was an overcast (but DRY) morning as the cars began rolling into the Fowlerville Fairgrounds last Saturday. The Funmover arrived and spewed orange cones all over the meadow and roadways.

Registration and Tech were up and running with the dew still glistening on the site.

The cars soloed on the Autocross course and after some of them changed their shoes, they chewed up the grass on the RallyCross course. The same Honda broke the same halfshaft it has been known to fracture on past visits.

Nervous racers ventured out with the rallyists to experience the ups and downs of doing math in a moving vehicle. The top three cars finished with scores of 12, 13 & 14 points. They were hotly pursued by the Merideths who were running their first Rally this century.

The grill cranked out sausages and hamburgers all day at the hand of Chairman Brad (Brownell). Food and drink were aplenty.

Those who stayed past dusk were witness to the launch of Fowlerville's first satellite by the consortium of Glass/Harvey. A delightful sight.

Where were you?



**Nathan Usher on the way to the overall win at the Triathlon** Photo by: Scott Harvey

- **July 3-5 – Detroit and NEOhio Double National Road Race – Nelson Ledges**

By all accounts this was a very well attended (over 100 drivers) and highly enjoyable race weekend. Bob Pierson reported that there were no complaints at all (other than from one driver who crashed his car). According to Ed Arthur – Chief of F & C – all workers were well cared for, turned out in great numbers and also had a great time. Plans are already being made to run another Double National next year. Nelson Ledges proved to be a perfect location to which racers are drawn from all around the Great Lakes area. Please support our road racing program if at all possible.

- **September 5 – RallyCross #6– Lenawee County Fairgrounds – Adrian, MI**

One of the Detroit Region's premier RallyCross sites played host to round #6 in the series. 37 entrants were treated to twelve runs on a glorious late summer day. Class winners included: Jim Westerburg in Stock Front, Kenneth Tsang in Stock Rear and Adam Spieszny in Stock All. Doug Harvey took Prepared Front, Burke Davis won Prepared Rear (in his wife's Miata) and Nathan Usher continued his dominance of Prepared All. In the Modified classes – status quo was maintained as Jon Armstrong won M2 and Scott Harvey took M4. M4 was in doubt when the engine broke in the Mitsubeagle Partial Eclipse on Harvey's eighth run. Graciously, Jen Glass loaned out her PA Subaru for the remaining runs. It only seemed fair, as her tame mechanic (Harvey) had just completed a clutch replacement on her car a couple of days earlier.



**Marcus Merideth in the family grocery getter at the Triathlon**

**Photo by: Scott Harvey**

- **September 11-13 Press On Regardless® Rally – Houghton Lake, MI**

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary running of the *Press On Regardless® Rally* was truly a family affair. First off the Fisher family led by chairman, Bruce and sons Matt and Mitch and wife Renee put on one of the finest rallies in the country. A total of 550 miles of the finest forest roads Michigan's Lower Peninsula has to offer were all part of the route. There were 59 controls and all were scored.

Keeping it all in the family – overall and E class winners were the father and son team of Dave and Daniel Harkcom. Their total score, less than one point per control, was 47. Taking Limited with only 77 points were Brian and Kevin Line. Keeping the brother theme going were Nathan and Aaron Usher in Stock class, winning with 491 points.

All seemed to enjoy the challenge and the great roads. The only complaint would have been the excessive dust kicked up on the parched roads. Next time we will expect Bruce to call for some rain.

- **September 20 – Fall into Autumn Solo – Belle Isle Park**

Co-chairs Frank Putman and Mike Riddle created an interesting course for the 120 or so entrants at the *Fall into Autumn Solo*. Due to the moderate turn-out, competitors were turned loose for six runs on the Belle Isle paddock area. The in-class battles were intense with some of the more interesting clashes coming from Street Modified, where Ray Jason edged Alan Kraska by 0.071 seconds and the Pro index class where Alex Jones nosed out Marcus Merideth. The two most exciting battles took place in the last heat where the lead seemed to change on every run. In ESP the battle was between Kevin Robinet in his old-school cool 300Z and Nick Sullivan in a modern Mustang GT. On the last run Nick caught Kevin by just 0.21 seconds. The other last-heat drama came in the F125 class. Alan Sheidler took the win by just 0.3 seconds. The real story was Larry MacLeod taking out a cone on his last run, forcing him to fall back to his 5<sup>th</sup> run. Were it not for the cone – Lefty would have taken the class win by 0.001 seconds!

- **September 26 – CAST In Stone National Road Rally – Pinckney, MI**

It's been a while since a National Road Rally has been put on by the Detroit Region. In fact the last one was Rob Moran's *CAST In Stone*. It has probably been four or five years – but Rob has brought it back. Instead of running out of the Houghton Lake or West Branch areas, it has migrated south and found a new place to start – Pinckney. Since most of the good roads used on many of the Detroit Region rallies happen to fall in Livingston, Washtenaw and Jackson Counties – it made perfect sense to bring *CAST* to this area as well.

This time around Rob, and co-chair Jim Fekete, took the rally's name literally. All CASTs were 35 mph. Clever use of gains and pauses kept the wide open, and alternatively populated areas at induced speeds that worked. The rally itself did not draw many competitors from outside the area, as may have been hoped. The primary reasons for this are that the Detroit Region has a reputation for putting on rallies that first of all run predominantly on unpaved roads, frequently into the night (after dark), and also use speeds that some consider to be "brisk". That's three strikes. So there were no "zero-heros" from outside the area to enjoy this excellent example of a well organized and laid-out rally. Too bad for them – too bad they don't get it.

There were still competitors from as far away as Virginia, Ohio and Illinois. Naturally, most competitors were from Michigan. Taking the Novice class win were the team of Jon Jared and Art Nellett. This was their second rally. It was probably a little less of an adventure, as their first was POR a few weeks earlier. Stock was taken by Robert Kay and Mike Bennett (45 points). Limited was dominated by Ken Knight and Greg Lester (17 points). Taking Equipped and just edging out Knight and Lester for overall honors were Scott Harvey and Jack von Kaenel with 16 points.

## **Your Story and Photos Could Have Been Here**

### **An editorial from the Editor...**

We were fortunate to have two nice submissions in the last issue of *Open Exhaust* from Bradley Brownell. This time around, I had to raid the website for some material. The rest is pretty much my own stuff. There is always a need for more information, more stories, and more photos. If you have something you'd like to share – please submit to me directly or to any of the region officials. If there are things you would like to see covered – or covered in more detail – let us know. This is *your* newsletter. This is *your* opportunity to get your journalistic or photographic skills put on display. Don't be shy – submit your contributions today.

In the meantime, I will fill the remaining space with more of my stuff. If I don't get more material to work with – this will continue to be my forum to highlight things that are of primary interest to me. If this is not representative of the membership as a whole – I have no way of knowing unless I hear from *you*.

So what have you got?

Scott



Out in the woods – The start of day one at the 2009 Press On Regardless © Rally Photo by: Scott Harvey

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

- Oct 17– Season Ender Solo – Belle Isle. Contact: Ray Jason
- Oct 24 – Street Survival School – FTT Proving Grounds – Fowlerville. Contact: Jen Glass
- Nov 7 – RallyCross #8 – Lenawee County Fairgrounds. Contact: Bob Martin
- Dec 5 – RallyCross #9 – Cassaday Farm – Capac. Contact: Jerry Shiloff
- Jan 9, 2010 – Son of Sno\*Drift XII (Road Rally) – Waterford. Contact: Scott Harvey
- Jan 17, 2010 – RallyCross #1 – TBD. Contact: Scott Harvey
- Jan 23, 2010 – Detroit Region Awards Banquet – TBD. Contact: Jen Glass

### 2009 Great Lakes Division Road Rally Champions:



**Equipped Class: Bruce Fisher, Daniel Harkcom, Dave Harkcom  
and Rob Moran**

**Limited Class: Greg Lester, Brian Line, Kevin Line**

**Stock Class: Adam Spieszny**