

SP KESMAN

JULY 2004

Official Publication of The Philadelphia Region SCCA



Rob's REmarks.

Your RE Report:

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are knee deep in our competition programs, the year is only half over, and I am completely exhausted. In my last REmarks I mentioned that I have a new son, a new competition car, and a full schedule of events planned.

I am just getting back from Toledo where I competed in a '91 MR2. But it was not mine. Mine is on my trailer in my driveway at home. Three weeks ago, the car was running and I took it to the regions autocross Test and Tune. There were several problems that were instantly apparent. Loose hose clamps, an overly rich mixture of fuel and air, and several electrical problems plagued the car and I was only able to get four runs in the entire day. There was also a stumble that was causing backfires and loss of power between 2000 and 3000 RPM. The day was not a total loss, I was able to test the new suspension on those couple of runs and it worked perfectly. So two weekends ago, I took my MR2 over to Joe Aquilante's shop, Phoenix Performance, where Steve Landstra and I were going to take a closer look at the engine and put a good tune on it. After a couple hours of driving, tuning, and revving the engine, it lost all compression. I didn't have the time to really look at it there so I just cut my losses and put it back on the trailer.

But it not having my car for the upcoming Toledo National Tour made me realize two things: SCCA members are perhaps the friendliest and most generous people I know and I am a car whore.

I'm going to step back to last years Ft. Myers National Tour. I placed high enough in my '00 MR2 Spyder to earn a trophy and Lori Leone took first place in her class and won us a couple of tires. Corey Ridgick co-drove our car and was only a couple of tenths out of trophies. I was high on life. I was driving well and the car felt great.

A few months later, at the next National Tour I attended in Toledo OH, I wasn't feeling good after getting thrashed by the same people I had had competed against earlier in the year. I did what all good drivers do and blamed the car. A friend of mine, Chris Shenefield, heard me lamenting and offered me his Redshift sponsored Civic for the Washington DC tour. I accepted and so the downward spiral into whoredom began. I did well considering that I had never driven the car before, finishing just out of trophies.

I was talking to another friend of mine Tracy Ramsey online about how I thought my MR2 was off and that I was going to sell it. He said that before I did that, I should co-drive his MR2 to make sure that it was my car and not my driving. I accepted and drove out to the National Tour in Peru Indiana. After first runs, I was leading the field. After second runs, I was in second place. I messed up my third run and slipped out of trophies on the first day. I recovered on the second day and

took home my second National trophy that year. It was also my second borrowed car.

National Championship was coming up and as it ended up, Lori had taken a liking to Corey Ridgick's STS classed Subaru. As Corey said, "It's going to be out there anyway" and we worked out a co-driving arrangement. The three of us missed out on trophies but the experience of competing at Nationals is worth the drive. It was also my third borrowed car.

My fourth borrowed car was at this years Washington DC tour. My '91 MR2 was still in the garage in pieces and I was looking for a ride. Brian Yoder heard my plea and offered his EP classed CRX. I used to own a CRX that I drove for a few years. How much different could his be? Was I surprised. I spun that car more times than I care to remember. I even spun it when I was taking it easy after going off course, it just came around. Brian was a really good sport about it. I ended up in last place so I look at it as a learning experience.

This brings me back to the Toledo Tour this past weekend. Kristell Janusz, after hearing about the bad luck with my SM2 '91 MR2, offers hers and Chris' E-Stock MR2 for the weekend. After considering my options for a few minutes, I accept the ride. Once getting over the initial shock of having neither ABS nor power steering, I had to grow accustomed to the extra 500 pounds of car. The class consisted entirely of '91-'93 MR2s and it appeared that only the colors were different. Although I didn't do as well as I hoped, I was within a couple of tenths of the car owner after each day of competition. Communally, we both blamed the car for our bad performances.

So to everyone that I've borrowed a car from in the last year - THANKS!

Rob Leone
Regional Executive



Meeting Notice

The July BOD meeting will be held on July 12 at 7:00 at P.J. Welihan's Pub, 799 DeKalb Pike in Blue Bell. The July 14 General Membership meeting will be held at 8:00 at Julie's on Route 611 in Horsham.

The August BOD meeting will be held one week later than usual, on August 16 at 7:00 at P.J. Welihan's. The General Membership meeting will be held on August 18 with racing starting at 7:30 at Grandview Speedway.

Due to the fact that the regular night for the September BOD meeting is Labor Day and the regular General Membership meeting falls on a date after many of the Board members will have left for Topeka, it has been decided to hold the BOD and General Membership meetings for September on September 1 at P.J. Welihan's with the BOD meeting starting at 6:30 and the General Membership meeting at 8:00.

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Region Calendar

JULY

- 12 BOD Meeting, P.J. Welihan's 7 pm
- 14 General Meeting, Julie's Steakhouse, Horsham, PA 8:00 pm
- 10,11 Giants Despair Hillclimb (Solo I) Sportsfest
- 11 Allentown (Solo II) Boeing (Solo II)
- 18 SCCA Solo 2 NE Divisional Championship
- 31,8-1 Rose Valley (Solo 1)

AUGUST

- 16 BOD Meeting, P.J. Welihan's 7 pm
- 18 Grandview Speedway 7:30

SEPTEMBER

- 1 BOD Meeting 6:30
General Meeting 8:00
P.J. Welihan's
799 DeKalb Pike
in Blue Bell

NEW MEMBERS

William Biermann
Steven Kartischko
Robert Bolbotowski
Caitlin Pipal
Jacob Pipal
Ron Minearo
Rosemary Mundhenk
Ryan Mcfarland
Roger Dalcin
Rebecca Roth
Robert Walter Jr
Ren Walter
Chris Slaymaker
Joseph Dibiase
Albert Tubinas
Frank Bednarek
William Boyd Jr
John King
Matthew Wilson
Jeffrey Milet
Rik Creus

Published Monthly by The Philadelphia Region, Sports Car Club of America, 425 Bethlehem Pike, FortWashington, PA 19034. Subscription price of \$12.00 per year is included in Membership Dues. Non-Member subscriptions are available at \$ 15.00 per year. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month to be considered for the next issue. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily the Philadelphia Region SCCA. Permission to reprint material in *The Spokesman* is granted to all SCCA publications with credit given to the author and *The Spokesman*.

PHILADELPHIA REGION SCCA

BOD Meeting

June 7, 2004

Location: Otto's Brauhaus, Horsham, PA

Attendance: BOD: **Rob Leone (RE), Jon Rush, Judy Bloeser, Steven Rosenberg, Joe Aquilante, Frank Gonzalez, Steve Landstra, Lori Leone.** Others: **George Bloeser, Wendel Green, and Jeff Jacobs, Dan Shalkowski.**

Treasurer's Report – Steven Rosenberg

During the past month there has been no Solo II income deposited, but expenses for sanction fees, insurance, and site rental, and porta-potties reached over \$4100. The total cash in the accounts now stands at \$26,200.09

Road Rally – Wendel Green

"The Furnace Run" will be held June 26. **Jon Rush**, the Safety Steward, has checked the route, and reported, "It's awesome!" The 123 mile "tulip" rally will have closed, open, and do-it-yourself controls. Four control groups will be needed to cover the controls. The route is complete with checkpoints marked, the Generals and Route Instructions are written, and control logs have been constructed.

The control cars will be downstream of the checkpoint, timing the passings using a pneumatic hose connected to the clock. No one will have to get out and walk back to the control car. Seventeen police jurisdictions have been notified of the rally.

The August rally is scheduled for August 21. It will be a novice level "Trap" rally with only a few traps. Wendel announced that the December rally will be under the speed limits, but "brisk," in Northern Chester County.

Those working a rally will receive points toward the championship for the first rally worked, and will receive a "Work Perk" coupon for each additional rally worked.

Rallycross – Jon Rush

Because of scheduling conflicts, site inspection has not occurred yet. **Alex Kuhner** and Jon will be visiting the top three potential sites in the next few weeks.

It was stated that a Solo II Safety Steward can be Safety Steward for Rallycross.

Solo I – Rich Sweigart

The two June hillclimbs will be Weatherly and Pagoda. In July, Giants Despair Hillclimb in Wilkes-Barre will be held on the 10th & 11th, and Rose Valley Hillclimb, held in Trout Run, is scheduled for the 24th & 25th

Club Racing – George Bloeser

The May 19 Tri-Region planning meeting was very successful. Philly Region member **Jay Smith** has agreed to be Race Chairman and attended the 12-Hours at the Point to get the Race Chair's perspective. **George Bloeser** will be coordinating the publicity with help from other Tri-Region members.

George has recruited three new tech inspectors for Philly/Tri Region.. All have become or are becoming Philly Region members. All Region members are invited to join the work force at the Double National August 20-22 for one or more days. No prior experience is needed. Training/mentoring will be set up for first timers. Please call **George Bloeser** at 610-965-0585 or email him at indy33@aol.com to get more information about the specialties and working. A good turnout of workers in each specialty is required for this to be a successful event.

The following is noted about new/proposed tracks: No change has been reported at Rausch Creek and their website is

basically silent about the road course; Joe Aquilante talked with Mascaro about Liberty Bell in Douglassville, requesting that an unused part of the property be asphalted for use by the Solo II community; a track is proposed for the Millville area of South Jersey with the key person being the person who developed VIR. All would impact Philly Region as two are within the Anthracite Racing Associates area, and one within Tri-Region's area.

Area drivers have been doing well at recent events with the Walsh/Christie/Snow team qualifying 14th of 50 for the 12-Hours at the Point. They finished 25th after running out of gas on the course and being towed in for refueling. Tom Oates finished 10th in World Challenge at Lime Rock and has reportedly broken the track record for T1 in club racing at Lime Rock.

Two other quick points: Kohler is the presenting sponsor for this year's Club Racing National Championship Runoffs and George Bloeser will be Chief of Pit-Tech for the Runoffs.

Website – Lori Leone

With no Solo II or Rally on the schedule for the past month, the number of hits on the website was down this month, but the total is still more than 2000 per month.

Solo II – Dan Shalkowski

Since the last meeting, there has not been a local Solo II event. A Test & Tune was held at NCCC on June 6 with a good turn out for the runs and seminars.

Even with no local events, members have been busy elsewhere. Thirty five Philly Region members registered for the National Tour event held at Fed Ex Field, hosted by WDC Region. Ten trophies were brought home, with first place trophies going to Jeff Jacobs (HS), Dave Newman (FP), Derek Fink (EM), and Cheryl Connelly (STSL) in her first National event. This turnout is a Philly Region record.

A week later nine of our members (all Philly Region members who showed up) trophied at the WDC Pro-Solo event at RFK Field on June 5-6. Chris Woolard took a first and Dan Shalkowski was awarded \$300 by Subaru. This number of Philly participants is the most to ever participate in a Pro event.

The next event will be June 13 at Nazareth, followed by the Holbert Memorial on Saturday, June 26th at Ripken Stadium. The charity to receive the proceeds from this event is the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation.

Steven Rosenberg has talked with Steve Ely about our future at Nazareth. The fence that was erected to "protect" NASCAR drivers is imbedded in concrete and cannot be moved at this time. If the track is rented next year by us for Solo II events, the fence can be removed since there will be no NASCAR involvement with the track. George Bloeser mentioned speaking with Craig Rust about a reduced rental rate for any Philly Region Solo II or Solo I uses in the future, considering all we have done for/with the track in the past.

Rob Leone is the contact with Ripken and will be involved in setting the use dates when the 2005 calendar scheduling is opened.

Solo II Divisional

Jeff Jacobs, who is a Steward at the Topeka National Championships, is the Philly Region Event Chair/Coordinator. Chris Fransen is the Co-Chair, and the Course Designer will be

MINUTES continued on page 4

Lee Piccone, who designed the course for the WDC National Tour event and one of the National Championship courses at Topeka.

The entry form is posted with registration information being sent to many lists and sites. Twenty people registered the first day. A limit of 200 entries has been set for this event.

Details of the Divisional were discussed, from camping, to garbage collection, to truck logistics, to the length of the hoagies. Everything seems organized with people in charge of specific areas. A dry run of the grid and paddock arrangements will occur at the June 26th Holbert event.

To date five sponsors have pledged \$2250 for the event and CSE will donate the scales. Joe Aquilante's Phoenix Performance is the title sponsor.

The T-shirt design competition was won by Brian Yoder who used a stylized version of Steve Landstra's car in his design. Lori will coordinate the T-shirt distribution with John Groves.

Nazareth Pro events – Steven Rosenberg

Nazareth went well. There were plenty of workers. Ken Buck was a tremendous help bringing refreshment to people on station. Patrick Weaver, the worker coordinator did an excellent job of making the working at Nazareth a relaxed and enjoyable experience. The BOD voted to give Patrick two Philadelphia Region shirts in recognition of his effort on behalf of the Region. (Rosenberg, Landstra). The only negative is the apparent loss of a headset.

Other Business

Meeting dates and places are being changed. Starting in July, the BOD will meet at 7:00 on the Monday before each General Membership meeting at PJ Whelihan's Pub, 799 DeKalb Pike in Blue Bell.

The August General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 18 instead of Wednesday, August 11 so that we can have an evening at Grandview Speedway for the DIRT Big Block Modifieds in Thunder on the Hill. Judy Bloeser has made arrangements with the track for discounted entry fee, pit entry, meeting with drivers, PA announcements, and display of a car/information explaining SCCA & Solo II events. The BOD meeting will be held on the previous Monday, August 16.

The September meetings will both take place on September 1 at either Julie's or PJ Whelihan's, with the BOD meeting held at 7:00 followed by the General Membership meeting at 8:00. Respectfully submitted, Judy Bloeser, Secretary

PHILADELPHIA REGION SCCA General Membership Meeting June 9, 2004

Location: Julie's, Horsham, PA. Attendance: 16

The discussions in the meeting generally reported and amplified information contained in the BOD minutes for June 7, 2004. The following additional announcements and information were noted:

Rob "gaveled" the meeting to order, the first time the gavel has been used in many years since the disappearance of the last one.

Dan Shalkowski, after reporting about Philly Region member successes in the recent Solo II National Tour and Pro events, explained how the Pro events are different from regular Regional Solo II events. The use of a "Christmas Tree" set of lights at the start rather than starting the clock when the line is crossed makes reaction time an important factor, and mirror

courses adds another dimension to the competition

Steven Rosenberg explained that the fence which was erected at Nazareth for the NASCAR security will have to stay in place this year. As a result, the Solo II events will be limited to the two lower lot areas.

June 25 is the date set for inspection of a possible Rallycross site in DE.

When asked about workers at hillclimbs, Marc Gerstein said anyone who wants to work can just show up and be put to work. Hillclimb (Solo I) competitors must have a competition license and safety equipment similar to that of a road racing competitor.

George Bloeser reported that Philly Region member Jay Smith has agreed to serve in the capacity of Race Chairman for the Tri-Region Double National this August at Pocono. He and JD King (SJR) will co-chair the administrative side of the event.

Jon Rush described the route of The Furnace Run rally as having lots of gravel, yet good speed.

Relating to meeting dates, future BOD meetings will be held at P.J. Whelihan's on DeKalb Pike (July 12, August 16, Sept 1) where we used to meet when it was Valley Forge Brewing Co and DeBears. The General Membership meetings will move around – July 14 at Julie's, August 18 at Grandview Speedway, and September 1 at P.J. Whelihan's after the BOD meeting.

There are already 91 entries for the Philly Region Solo II Divisional to be held at Ripken Stadium on July 23-25, with this being the third day since Registration opened. The field will be limited to 200 competitors. No reservations are final until money is received. The event T-shirts have been designed by Brian Yoder, and Cheryl Connelly designed the event sticker. Temporary Memberships will be available for the Divisional.

Rob Leone brought up an issue that could affect many members. It seems that some auto dealerships are access our event information and denying warranty work on any car that had been autocrossed. Therefore, future Solo II results will not list the car unless expressly notified to do so for sponsorship reasons by the driver.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bloeser, Secretary

Club Racing Report

George Bloeser, Chairman

Having spent a few race days behind the wheel at Summit Point, I remember thinking that two 15 minute qualifying sessions hardly gave me track familiarization and that a 16 lap Regional race was hardly long enough to really find my rhythm, but I do know that spending that time in Nomex and under a helmet was enough to work up quite a sweat. I wished for more time, yet was relieved to unzipper my driver's suit.

Well, how about 12 hours and 370 laps around Summit Point? That's what Region members **Gerry Walsh, Sean Christie, and Steve Snow** did on June 5. I'm not sure how evenly they divided the driving chore, but let's make it about an even split – 123 laps each through mist and rain and darkness with spray and mud obscuring the view. It wasn't as easy as 1-2-3 dropping down into the Carrousel that many times or being mid-pack on numerous restarts. At least the weather was cool, which made it rough on crew and spectators, but better on the drivers. The Otto's BMW Mini team headed by Gerry qualified 14th and completed the race in 25th position after having run out of fuel and being towed in. They will be competing in another 12-hour duel at Nelson Ledges in July and hopefully going for the trophy in the NESCCA Enduro Series.

As I was catching up on the Region's National drivers, I noticed that #79 took second place to the #05 in the GT1 race at the National at Lime Rock on June 5. The number 79 has significance – it's the age of Paul Newman, race car driver and actor, who for the last number of years has driven a car carrying the number which is his age. I wonder how high his numbers will go? Remember, we don't use three-digit numbers.

I was happy to see Adam Zimmerman and Jack Banha back in the National points.

Right now we only have on Philly Region member sitting in first place. **Joe Aquilante**, with three National races and two wins is at the head of the pack of T1 drivers, a field that also includes **Andrew (AJ) Aquilante**, **Tom Oates**, and **Chip Ott** in positions 6, 7, and 8 respectively. That's not bad since Tom has run only one National and AJ has run two. Interesting to note, at the recent National at Mid-Ohio, AJ beat his dad. Joe admits losing sight of him.

We have about 25 drivers competing for National points, generally a few in each race group. As you set your schedule for the rest of the summer, make sure you block out the dates of August 20-22 to spend some time at the Tri-Region Double National at Pocono. That's a weekend with two complete sets of qualifying and racing. You can come as a spectator or you can come to work (how about trying a flag station?). If you'd like to be on the inside with a flag in your hand or involved with specialties such as timing & scoring, tech, or pits, just send me an email indy33@aol.com or call me at 610-965-0585.

Let's Do Something Special!! Grandview Speedway – August 18

Judy Bloeser

Instead of joining the BOD at Julie's for a steak or burger and conversation, how about spending a night under the lights at Grandview Speedway for a Thunder on the Hill Racing Series event!

On Wednesday, August 18, at 7:30 the DIRT Big Block Modifieds will be at Grandview Speedway for the 100 lap TRAFFIC JAM! Quoting the PR for the event, "See past winners **Brett Hearn**, **Jimmie Horton**, **Frank Cozze**, **Tim McCreddie**, and **Billy Decker** take on the local talents of **Craig Von Dohren**, **Duane Howard**, **Billy Pauch**, **Doug Hoffman** and **Kenny Brightbill**. The best of New York will be at Grandview Speedway for this annual appearance of the DIRT Big Block Modified Stars."

Arrangements have been made with the track and promoters to have reduced price entry for Philly Region members and friends, access to the pits, talk with drivers, our name on the electronic message board, time on the microphone, victory circle appearance, and a car and info on display. The normal admission with pit pass is \$25, but we will get in for \$20 and have all the perks!

I need to know who will be attending so that I can make arrangements for the right amount of tickets and have an area roped off for us. Therefore, send me an email macmassie@aol.com or give me a call (610-965-0585) by Sunday, August 1, so I can work out all details.

Sure, we'll have the minutes of the BOD meeting available, and we'll answer questions, but the main focus will be fun.

Grandview Speedway is a one-third (1/3) mile high-banked oval clay racetrack located on Route 100 in Bechtelsville

From Valley Forge, take Route 422 to Route 100. Travel north on Route 100 about 10 miles. From Allentown, head south on Route 100 approximately 20 miles.

Remember to make reservations with me.

Classified ads in the Spokesman are FREE!! and run for three issues. Submit your ad to Rich Sweigart 215-249-9138. You may email your ads to RSRacing356@yahoo.com (my preferred method, please title as Spokesman Classified).

Please try to follow the format below. Deadline for inclusion in the following month's newsletter is the 15th of the month before publication.

FOR SALE: 1990 Spec Maita, built to 2004 rules featuring a MazdaSpeed suspension, Hawk Blue pads, SS braded brake lines, Rebuilt 1.6L engine, MazdaSpeed SM exhaust, MazdaSpeed SS clutch disk and pressure plate, Vicous LSD, Autopower bolt-in cage(will add tall man kit if, needed for open car), Kirkey 16" seat, G-Force harness, and quick-release Longacre steering wheel. Decal package less numbers. \$12,800. W/ optional 8 Kosei wheels and 8 new Toyo tires(shaved and rain), AMB transponder, hardtop w/ window net, all mounted. \$16,000 ready to race. Charlie Williams 610-888-6332 or chasmains@comcast.net

FOR SALE: 1993 RX 7 R1, 69K miles, Only 1600 shipped to USA and not many left. 5-spd, ABS, A/C, new clutch, new F1 tires, Koni adj. shocks, new inspection, garage kept/covered, excellent condition, prepared by DKR Performance, original owner Bob Miller. Lots of spares: 4 factory wheels and tire trailer. \$18,500. Bob Allen 610-666-6951 or allen_inc@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: 1997 Subaru Legacy 2.5GT. 5 spd sedan, 90K miles, very clean w/just some minor scratches. Has everything but leather and only aftermarket is K&N air filter. Selling because we had to move up to a minivan. This is a fun, reliable, AWD sport sedan! \$5900. Joe 610-696-6725 or 610-648-3504. Also e-mail for info or pics at jscorsone@yahoo.com (8/04)

FOR SALE: 1969 Corvette Coupe. 3 National Solo2 championships, 3 Divisional Solo2 Championship, 7 Regional Solo2 cahmpionships. Set up for solo2: roll bar, safety belt, heavy duty sway bars, solid bushing, custom fuel tank, 1 set of 15"x10" racing wheels. New 350 4 bolt main from Chevy. 600 Holley Carb. Munice M-22 4spd, High performance Chevy Clutch. 456 Posi rear. This car can be made street legal. Have pics of the car. Only 18,500 miles on it. \$8K obo. Call Dino @ 267-446-7483 or email @ dinofia@yahoo.com (8/04)

FOR SALE: 1993 Mazda RX-7 twin-turbo, silver, black leather interior. Only 54,500 orginial miles. Beautiful condition and well maintained. No add-ons and never raced. \$17,000 or best offer. Adam Levy 215-233-0398 or adamslevy@comcast.net(9/04)

FOR SALE: 1979 Triumph Spitfire. Completely restored including new interior and top. Call George for details at 610-965-0585(9/04)

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Address Service Requested

**Special
General Meeting
Date and Place
In AUGUST
GRANDVIEW
SPEEDWAY - August 18**

See Page 5 for more.