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KESMAN

December 2004

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Region SCCA



Meeting Notice

The December BOD Meeting will take place at Romano's Macaroni Grill in Plymouth Meeting on Monday, December 6, at 7:00. The General Membership Meeting will be the annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 8 8:00 PM at Tom Oates Chevrolet located on Route 113 in Chester Springs, PA, 1/4 mile North of Route 401. We will hold The First Annual Philadelphia SCCA Region Chester Springs Virtual Racing Cup. The competition will be held in the showroom of Tom Oates Chevrolet with head to head play on XBOX/Play Station type racing game. Game model to be a well-guarded secret to save the integrity of the Cup. The tournament will start at 7.15 PM sharp prior to the General Meeting, with a victory celebration afterward. Competitors must sign up by 7PM. Must be a Philly Region Member to play. So start exercising those digits now for your shot at immortality! For detailed directions and a map to Tom Oates Chevrolet, see <http://www.tomoateschevy.com/directions.html>

It is anticipated that the January BOD budget meeting will be scheduled for Saturday, January 8 and the General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12.

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BOD Meeting

November 8, 2004

Location: Romano's Macaroni Grill,
Plymouth Meeting, PA

Attendance: BOD: Rob Leone, Jon Rush, Judy Bloeser, Steven Rosenberg, Joe Aquilante, George Bloeser, Steve Landstra, Lori Leone. **Others:** Wendel Green.

Treasurer's Report – Steven Rosenberg

Income for the month was \$1016.00. Expenses were \$1699.44. The balance is \$36,690.95. This is about a \$7000 increase since last year, even with no Solo II Winter Series and higher facility rentals for Ripken.

Road Rally – Wendel Green

There are two more rallies in the Tri-State Rally Series for this year – Pine Barrens Express, November 20, and Chester Twister (put on by Philly Region), December 11.

We have a good start for planning next year's events with rallies planned for February, March, April, September, October, November, and December of 2005. Next year the name of the series will change from "Tri-State" to "Mid Atlantic" Road Rally Series.

Current area rallyists were surveyed to help in setting the days and times for future rallies. Based on the results, it has been decided that generally they will be held on Sundays with the possibility of switching to a Saturday to avoid a conflict with a Solo II event.

A "CAS" in the numbered route instructions will no longer occur at an intersection, but rather at a reference point such as a sign.

New, larger magnetic numbers have been made.

The Triumph Club will be hosting a Convention in 2006 and is considering the idea of engaging us to create a rally and possibly a Solo II event for them.

Rallycross – Jon Rush

While some possible sites have not materialized, more keep coming to light, from farm fields, to gravel pits.

Solo II - Steven Rosenberg (Ken Buck)

The Winter Series schedule has been set – January 8 and 22, February 5, March 19. All will be held at Ripken.

The Novice School will be held at Ripken on April 1-2, followed by the first Summer Series event on April 3. The Evolution School will be held at Ripken on April 23-24.

There will be a new Solo II site at Sportsfest. Ken is recommending that we continue our affiliation with this event.

The discussion about a new truck continues with specs being refined by the committee.

Spokesman

The deadline for materials for the Spokesman will be the 17th of the month. Pictures are not included in the printed version. Pictures are requested for the December issue.

Club Racing – George Bloeser

The annual Race Scheduling meeting will precede

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BOD Meeting

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the Mini Convention on November 12. Tri-Region is faced with many decisions because of scheduling conflicts which make both of the weekends offered by Pocono difficult for holding events. The June (Fathers Day) weekend coincides with two other Regionals and one National, and the August weekend would pit the Tri-Region National (Double National) against one at Mid-Ohio. Many possibilities are being considered including a High Performance Car Control Clinic (HPCCC) on the June weekend, swapping dates with other lessees, and subletting sections of the track. **George** has had several phone discussions with **Bryan Cohn**, SCCA National Manager of Club Racing, covering proposals for changes to regulations for SCCA HPCCCs to help them compete in the Performance Driving market. These were discussed at length.

The Tri-Region representatives for 2005 will be **Joe Aquilante**, **George Bloeser**, **Jay Smith**, and the alternates will be **Judy Bloeser**, **Bob Maurer**, and **Jon Rush** (Motion: **Landstra**, **Rosenberg**).

Banquet

The banquet will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at the Doylestown Country Club.

Website – Lori Leone

The website forums have been active with a good exchange of ideas.

Election

The election will be final at the November General Membership meeting.

Other Business

The 2004 NEDiv Mini Convention will be held in Uniondale, NY on November 12-14, but no outline of the program is yet available. Information about the 2005 Mini-Convention, hosted by Philadelphia Region, will be shared with those attending.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bloeser, Secretary

General Membership Meeting

November 10, 2004

Location: P.J. Whelihan's, Blue Bell, attendance 20.

The discussions in the meeting generally reported and amplified information contained in the BOD minutes for November 8, 2004. The following additional announcements and information were noted:

Rally

The "Rally in the Dark" will be held on February 26, 2005.

Rallycross

The Grandview race track is a possible site of a Spring Rallycross. They have been informed about SCCA insurance and requirements for putting on an event

Solo I

The Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association's annual banquet will be held in Bethlehem on November 20. The schedule for next year is expected to include the traditional dates. No surprises are foreseen in the schedule.

Solo II

The Winter Series at Ripken will be held on Saturdays. We are waiting for Ripken to finalize the Ironbird baseball schedule for next season before our Summer Series dates can be set. There will also be

events at Boeing, Northampton County Community College, and possibly Nazareth. It will be decided if hosting a Divisional is possible after the Ripken Ironbird schedule is made public.

Spokesman

A letter of thanks has been sent to **Fred Livezey** for his years of service to the Region. A copy will appear in the next issue of the Spokesman. Pictures of all aspects of the club are being requested for inclusion in the newsletter on a regular basis. They should be sent to **Jon Rush** at jdrush@enter.net. You can choose to download a copy of the Spokesman with or without the pictures. If you don't have high speed internet service, the picture version will take quite a bit of time.

Club Racing

George Bloeser explained the problems and possible options in the scheduling of the two Tri-Region weekends at Pocono Raceway. Date-swapping and sub-leasing are being considered relative to the August dates for the Double National. The June weekend will most likely be used for a High Performance Car Control Clinic. George has learned from **Bryan Cohn**, SCCA National Manager of Club Racing, that there are many expected changes in the HPCCC rules (speed, instructor requirements, cars included, etc.) which will ease some of the constraints previously experienced by Regions putting on such events.

George explained that the BOD considered all people who were interested and what they could bring to Tri-Region when selecting the Tri-Region representatives for 2005. **Brian Holtz** thanked **Marc Gerstein** for all he had done for the Region in his many years of serving on the Tri-Region Board. Brian said he filled in many voids, always being willing to step up and help.

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General Membership Meeting

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Banquet

The Annual Philadelphia Awards Banquet will be held on March 5 at the Doylestown Country Club. The cost will be \$25 per person, with the remaining costs being picked up by the Region. **Steven Rosenberg** asked people to look into the possibility of offering door prizes. Please contact him with any ideas/offers at scooter@arandagroup.com.

Website

Lori Leone was complimented for the format she used in developing the forums. She said we are trying to get people to the forums and eventually get rid of the phax email lists. She expects people to gradually migrate to the forums. Using a forum, a thread can easily be followed, the whole history of the idea being readily available.

Mini-Convention

This year's Mini-Convention will be held November 12-14 in Uniondale on Long Island. No specific information about the program has been circulated. Next year's Mini-Convention will be hosted by Philly Region and held in Allentown, PA.

Brian Holtz - SCCA Director for Area 2

Brian gave a brief report about the state of the organization. He said that the National office has been very busy with everyone making a concerted effort to make the organization profitable, and it is expected that we will end the year in the black. Membership is down, but the staff is optimistic although expenses had to be cut and there is a delay in some hirings. Pro and INC will be in the black. World Challenge handed out real prize money at their banquet.

When asked about a permanent Solo II National Championship site, Brian said that Forbes Field was

deteriorating with heaved concrete, but that the cost to pave it is so high that people are looking for others ways to improve things.

As to the subject of the future Runoffs site, Brian (who is on the committee to choose a site) said we are "in good shape" with bids from tracks for the event.

Brian spoke about the SCCA Enterprises Spec cars and the transmission issues that have caused problems with the cars, but now have been fixed. The open-wheeled car will continue to be in FA until the car count increases.

Joe Aquilante spoke about how the GCR is always out of date and suggested ways the delivery of the GCR could be improved. Brian reviewed possible solutions that were being considered by National and suggested that people check out **Terry Hanushek's** listing of GCR changes.

Joe asked whether we are locked into the number of classes at the Runoffs. Brian said that adding another class would cause a change in the way sessions are done at the track during the week. T3 was identified as the class Joe was interested in and it was recognized that many drivers wanted to see that become a class. Brian reminded everyone of the standard two year requirement for a class to move from the Regional to National status, but this can be waived. A BOD conference call in December will probably determine the future of T3.

Grant Reynolds' Award

Rob Leone announced that the Region would be receiving the Grant Reynolds award at the Mini-Convention. **Marc Gerstein** followed up by giving information about Grant Reynolds and the beginning of the award. It was Reynolds' idea to start a Solo II National Championship program.

Fuel Issue in Club Racing

It is obvious to some drivers that "funny fuel" is being used by competitors. According to **Brian Holtz**, this special fuel can run from \$28 to \$35 per gallon. It is very difficult to determine when such fuels are used because of masking agents and fuel blends that are used. The new proposal for cleaning up the fuel issue will be printed in Fastrack. Brian asked for people to read it and comment on it.

Election

Bill Sherwood, the Official Teller, was not present, but he had counted the ballots and given the tally to **Steven Rosenberg** for reporting at the meeting. Steven also accepted ballots that were brought to the meeting. The final tally was **Lori Leone** 64, **Corey Ridgick** 85, **Ken Buck** 116, **Jon Rush** 159, and **George Bloeser** 160. **George Bloeser**, **Jon Rush**, and **Ken Buck** will be seated as members of the 2005 Board of Directors and will begin their three-year terms on January 1, 2005.

Classified Ads

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@cs.com (my preferred method, please title as Spokesman Classified).

Deadline for inclusion in the following month's newsletter is the 15th of the month before publication.

Calender

December 2004

Date	Program	Event	Location	Related Link
12/6/04	Philly Region	Board Meeting 7pm	Romano's Macaroni Grill in Plymouth Meeting, PA	Romano's Macaroni Grill
12/8/04	Philly Region	General Membership Meeting	Tom Oates Chevrolet in Chester Springs, PA	Tom Oates Chevrolet
12/11/04	Road Rally	Chester Twister II	Chester PA	Chester Twister Flyer
12/28/04	Solo II	Solo II Meeting	Valley Forge Brewing Co. in Wayne, PA	Valley Forge Brewing Company

[Click Here for Calender Updates](#)

TV Runoffs Coverage

Here's the Speed Channel coverage of the Runoffs set for December:

Sat., Dec 4	2 PM 3 PM	American Sedan (AS) E Production (EP)	Tom Aquilante (#51) Steve Limbert (#11)
Sun, Dec 5	12 PM 1 PM 2 PM 3 PM	GT-3 Formula Continental (FC) Showroom Stock C (SSC) C Sports Racer (CSR)	
Sat., Dec 11	2 PM 3 PM	Formula Vee (FV) GT-1	
Sun., Dec 12	12 PM 1 PM 2 PM 3 PM	Formula Ford (FF) Spec Racer Ford (SRF) G Production (GP) GT-4	Howard Gerstein (#47) Joaquim Banha (#2)

Club Racing Report

George Bloeser, Chairman

This month's club racing report will cover multiple topics which I felt would be of interest to our Region members. I'll begin with one of the most fun club racing events held in the Northeast Division – the "35th Annual Great Pumpkin Affair," a regional race and a two hour NESCCA Enduro held Halloween weekend this Oct, 30 and 31 at Nelson Ledges Road Course in northeastern Ohio. The two-mile clockwise course has changed little over the past 30+ years, although during the last five years there have been many improvements in the paddock and support facilities. Simply put, Nelson Ledges provides the opportunity to step back in time to the early 1970s SCCA Club Racing experience, but now with toilets and sinks! There were six race groups with a total of 92 cars competing, followed by a two hour Enduro on Sunday with 24 cars entered and the top three finishers completing 87 laps. On Saturday night there was the usual Halloween party in the barn under the Control and Timing/Scoring building complete with costumes and all the food and drink you could consume. The party concluded with a haunted hayride through the woods surrounding the track. This was a great way to end the racing season, and our only regret was that **Judy** and I were the only Philly Region members to officiate at this event and none of our Region drivers competed there.

The November 12-14, 2004 NEDiv Mini-Convention was hosted by New York Region and held in Uniondale, New York on Long Island. There was a Club Racing scheduling meeting on Friday afternoon followed by Registration and a very nice "Welcome Reception" with food and drink. Saturday had a full slate of seminars with subjects of interesting in Club Racing, Solo II, and Rally, and planning meetings were held for the NESCCA National and Enduro series and the NARRC and NYSRRC Regional race series. At lunch, awards were given out to the

top NEDiv drivers in each of the 24 National race classes. Philadelphia Region's **Andrew Aquilante** (T1) and **Rob Gardner** (DSR) took top honors in their classes. In Solo II, Philadelphia Region was awarded the Grant Reynolds Trophy for participation and performance in the Northeast Division, SCCA Solo II that was accepted by **Rob Leone**. At the Saturday night Awards Banquet, **Andrew Aquilante** received the Rookie Driver of the Year Award.

On Sunday, the three NEDiv National Directors (**Bob Introne** – Area 1, **Brian Holtz** – Area 2, **Tom Campbell** – Area 10) gave us an update from the National Office and answered our questions. A few items of interest were:

1. Effective Jan. 1, 2005 the annual license fee for National and Regional competitor licenses will be \$75 including a complimentary copy of the latest edition of the GCR 2005 edition to be released in January. Novice Permits will be \$110 for a two-year term.
2. Also beginning in January, SCCA's official website www.scca.com will be the new home of the GCR. Each significant section of the GCR will be listed as a separate file so competitors can download only the section they want.
3. In October the National BOD approved Spec Miata as a National class for 2006, with a possible demo race at the 2005 Runoffs.
4. The Club Racing Board is considering a proposal to approve T3 as a Regional class for 2005. The current rule requires two years as a Regional class before being approved as a National class. However, it appears that T3 cars will be able to run in National races with T2 cars in 2005.
5. Transition of Solo I from Solo Board to Club Racing Board is proceeding. Matt Green of the Blue Mountain Region is our NEDiv representative on the National Committee.

6. Regarding The Runoffs for 2006 and beyond, the National Office sent out 135 requests for proposals. Only two viable proposals were received, one from Mid-Ohio and one from Heartland Park (Kansas).

The concluding event on Sunday was the NEDiv Council Meeting where, in my role as Chairman of the NESCCA Steering Committee, I presented and received approval for the 2005 NESCCA program. This program includes the \$3.00 per car assessment at each National race, continued use of the online registration system and the NESCCA website, and the awards program for drivers and workers at each National race and at the end of the 2005 racing season. As the Tri-Region representative, I presented our request for a Double National at Pocono Raceway for 2005. Unfortunately, there was an 8 to 8 tie vote on this proposed race being a Double, and since 75% of the Regions in NEDiv must approval a Double National, our request was denied. We will continue to discuss our request with the Regions that voted against it and still hope, with a revote, to hold a Double National in August 2005.

Subsequent to the Mini-Convention, it was announced by the SCCA National Office that new Directors were elected in two of the Areas that some of us are involved in – Area 10 **John Sheridan**, Area 12 **Kaye Fairer**; and our own **Brian Holtz** was re-elected for Area 2.

I hope to see many of you at our Region's December General Meeting/Holiday Party at Tom Oates Chevrolet on December 8 at 8:00.

Driver of the Month

An Interview with the Philly Region Driver of the Month - Corey Ridgick

Written by Perry Aidlebaum

www.autox4u.com

Since its creation in 1996 by Perry Aidelbaum, PA's Autocross Page <http://www.autox4u.com/> has provided hundreds of thousands of individuals, ranging from first timer to National Champion, with information on the sport of autocrossing. The main page provides everything one needs to know about autocrossing. For example, it features educational and general preparation tips, a classifieds page, and one of the most comprehensive schedule and results archives on the entire web! There truly is something for everyone on this site, so enjoy and remember to drive safely.

Perry has agreed to let the Spokesman reprint the interviews he did with Philly Region drivers that were originally posted on Perry's website. Our inaugural reprint is with Corey Ridgick, the 2004 Driver of the Year in Solo II. This article was first posted in March 2004.

"To think that I actually printed your newbie auto-x tips just 3 years ago and now I'll be the driver of the month... It means allot Perry... Thank you." - Corey Ridgick

I personally want to congratulate Corey on his driving efforts so far in 2004 and in previous years, he has a great start to the '04 season, Good Luck to you and I will see you out there real soon. - Perry

Name: Corey Ridgick

Age: 26

City/State: Allentown, PA

Profession: Physical Design Engineering (Electrical)

Q. What year did you first get interested in (or start) autocrossing?

A. 2001

Q. What kind of car do you compete with, what class do you compete in, and what are its particular strong suits in your opinion?

A. 2000 Subaru Impreza 2.5 RS. STS. Torque is the RS's strong point. No matter how tight the turn or how low the RPM, the car is always ready.

Q. How much of the sport do you think is attributed to driver skill vs. car setup?

A. What can I say about this? A good driver can do well in an under prepared car, but still isn't going to win anything meaningful. However, a well-prepared car with an unskilled driver isn't going to win anything at all. I believe that it takes a combination of both to really be competitive, with more emphasis on driving skill. It took me a long time to get my car set-up the way it is, and it's still being tweaked, then again so is my driving.

Q. What is it about autocrossing that keeps you interested?

A. Competition. I've always been a competitive person in everything I do. Autocrossing is the one thing that I've found that you can go to and be competitive every time, even if you aren't the best. You can go to an event and compete for 10th place, and if you were 11th last time, it feels like a million bucks.

Q. Do you constantly critique yourself during your runs or after the event?

A. Every time. I know where I left time on every course. It haunts me sometimes. I only think about the parts that I screwed up, never the parts that I got right... it's just how I am.

Q. How do you feel after a fast, clean run?

A. You mean the kind when your heart is racing, you are out of breath, and don't know how you got that way in just 50 seconds, your head is pounding in your helmet and you just want to scream?

Q. Would you consider expanding your skills to wheel to wheel racing?

A. Absolutely! Although I will stick with auto-xing for the near future, unless someone has a big chunk of change that they want to drop into a fledgling race car driver...

Q. Have you ever tried to get a company to sponsor you? Were you successful?

A. RedShift Motorsports is my sponsor. RedShift has been great to me and they even offered to buy me a new car and set it up for me for the 2004 season. I'm going to hold off on their offer to see if something better comes up.

Q. Is it only the driving aspect that entices you to go autocrossing?

A. Of course not. The people, the competition, the money. Really it's the money that keeps me coming back to auto-x. It's like a second job really, I will probably retire early with all the money that I'm making racing the Subaru.

Q. What trophies or titles have you won?

A. 2002 Philly Series 1st place SM
2003 Philly Series 1st place STS
2002 Rome Tour trophy 3rd in STX
2003 Toledo Tour trophy 5th STS
2003 Subaru Challenge Richmond 1st STS
2003 Subaru Challenge Richmond 1st place SuperStar challenge.
2003 Philly Region Driver of the Year
2003 National Championships 15th of 50 in STS
2004 Atlanta ProSolo 2nd STS
2004 Atlanta ProSolo Honda Street Challenge winner
2004 Ft. Myers Tour trophy 2nd STS

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Driver of the Month

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- Q.** What is your primary goal for the 2004 season?
- A.** To win a National Tour, to place 3rd or better in the ProSolo championship, to bring home wood from the National Championships.
- Q.** If you could have ANY autocross ride imaginable, what would it be and why?
- A.** ESP Lancer EVO VIII. Because I want to show the Subaru's a thing or two about a quick steering ratio. Nah, I've wanted an EVO since before they came to the states. The first one I drove was thanks to **Chris Woolard** and I'll never forget it... the car drove itself. Hands down, it's the best car I've ever taken a run in.
- Q.** What is your official source for all things autocross in the Northeast?
- A.** Ha, ha, ha, is this a radio station? autox4u.com!

Membership: 820

We Welcome these New Members

Michael Incalcaterra
Nicole Osborne
Matthew McCafferty
Henry Hong
Frank Brill
Glenn Silverstein
Christopher Criswell
Charles Gedge
Nathan Small
Peter Smith
Robert Famiglietti
Phillip Louie
Mike McLean
Adam Welch

Going Uphill

Solo I Report by Rich Sweigart

In 2004, the PHA (Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association) featured 8 events in 2 states with 515 entries. Despite not having a class champion this year, Philly Region had some good performances during the 2004 season. **Roy Dean** was the ironman of the Philly drivers, running 6 events in his Suzuki Swift. He picked up 1 win and a class record in ITB at the Spring Weatherly. He finished with 5 second places for a 3rd place overall in ITB points. Unfortunately, his co-driver, **Tony Powell** was a bit faster in scoring the ITB championship.

Chuck Christ managed 4 events; usually with co-driver, Mary Ann Fieux, and 4 3rd places in his Saab Sedan to finish 2nd in Vintage 1 for the season.

Despite blowing out a clutch at Pagoda, **Joe Perlo** was all smiles when I asked him if, he liked hillclimbing. Joe managed a 3rd at Pagoda, another 3rd at Duryea, and a win at the Fall Jefferson driving his Special 3 Corvette in his rookie season.

After crashing his Merlyn Club Ford at the 2003 Spring Weatherly, **Steve Mestrow** got it together to a win at Rose Valley and scored 2nd place finishes at the Fall Jefferson and the Fall Weatherly.

Rich Sweigart had a good season going with his Womer FV until a knee injury took him out halfway through the 2004 season. He did manage a 3rd at the Spring Weatherly, a win at Pagoda, and a last run of the weekend win at Giants.

After a few seasons of pushing a bone stock CRX, **Brian Yoder** put his car on some steroids to run in F Production and was rewarded with a Pagoda win and class record, plus a 2nd at Duryea.

Cutting back on events didn't slow **Rob Campbell** and his Special 2 Bug from sweeping the 2 Reading, PA events.

Jeff Doble continued his streak at Duryea with a win in DSP and a 4th at Giants.

John Moyer proved that old Minis don't die, they just go faster with a 5th at Duryea and a 1st at the Pagoda in GT5.

Other Philly notables where the Otto's Mini at the Pagoda, **Dave Austin's** homebuilt Falcon at Giants, and **Lance Smith** and his Vintage NASCAR Modified at Duryea. With 2004 in the books, 2005 looks to be an even better year. I hope to see a few more Philly faces hanging out at the hills and trials. If I can get a few drivers to commit to a full season, maybe we can enter an all Philly Team in the Team Championship.

Photographs

We are once again accepting photos for the online version of the Spokesman. If you would like to share your racing or region related photos with the members, send them to [Jon Rush at jdrush@enter.net](mailto:JonRush@enter.net).

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Other Internet Sites

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www.nescca.com

www.triregionracing.org

www.na-motorsports.com

Photographs



Tony Harding leaves the line at Nazareth at the September 26th Philadelphia Region event. 3genracing's Tony is in his second year of competing in Solo II and he races a Briggs and Stratton powered Phoenix kart in the Formula Junior 1 class. He is eleven years old and is a 6th grade student at Northley Middle School in Aston, PA.



The Otto's Mini Cooper is on the grid at the 12 Hours of Nelson Ledges in July. The car was driven by Philly Region SCCA members **Gerry Walsh**, **Sean Christie**, **Steve Snow**, and **Rich Smith**. The team completed 452 laps which was good for second place in SSC.



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