



# The PitStop!



## SCCA Southern Indiana Region Monthly Newsletter January 2005 Volume 52 Number 1

### January REport

It is January of 2005. It is the beginning of a new year. It is the beginning of another year of SIR/SCCA fun. Those of you that pay lots of attention to PitStop know that I usually focus on up coming events and that Paul Dornburg reports on the previous month's activities. Well, the December and January issues challenge that pattern. I covered the Rookie, Autocross, Rally, and Berry point competitions in last month's article. This month I will touch on the Awards Banquet and set the scene for 2005.

The Awards Banquet was quite an event. We had forty-five attendees – the largest crowd in at least five years – and everybody sure seems to have enjoyed the evening. On behalf of the club, I thank Mary Harl, Lauren Kincaid, Gary Heck, and Ken Andrew all for helping with details and logistics of the evening. The club also says "thank you" to the Covert Avenue AutoZone and Southern Indiana Tire for some of the prizes. We also made good use of a projector on loan from Atlas World Group.

The presentation of the club's awards (see the December, 2004 PitStop) was complimented by special presentations by Tom Bootz and Jeff Jackson. Tom presented Tim Green with the remains of the pylon Tim was unable to vaporize, with Gene Young's Locost's right front fender, in Topeka. Jeff Jackson presented the Ticky Tacky Ticket award to Mike Freeman. The Ticky Tacky Ticket award recognized the speeding ticket Mike received for failing slow quickly enough for a Kansas Turnpike toll both. These awards were fun for us all. (*Well, maybe not for one or two of us...but Mike, think of it as getting a delayed two-for-one deal on your ticket.*)

The 2004 the Indian Award was presented to John and Mimsie Coen. The Indian Award is presented to a non-board member that has done the most for the club in the year. This year, the Coens helped with the patch parties, brought guest entrants to rallies and autocrosses, recruited new members, ensured that everybody signed the insurance wavier, and put on one heck of a rally. The Coens deserve the recognition that the Indian Award represents. John and Mimsie helped make this a great year.

In 2004 we accomplished all but one of the goals I had for the club. We have yet to have a successful trip to a Tom Tipsword road race. Though not stated goals, we did resolve membership issues regarding dual, associate, and rookie members. We refined the Berry point distribution schedule to better reflect participation. Gene Young, Tim Green, and Julie Seeber refurbished the club trailer and we also acknowledged support from Precision Service and Wink Construction with signs on the trailer. We continued the growth of the rally program. We had more drivers participating in our autocross events. We returned to the Civic Center and the event even garnered some TV coverage. We enjoyed the return of the famous Food Rally. (Be sure to watch for the "Iron Chef" in Cindy Hylton's CenDiv report in the February issue of SportsCar.) Exploiting our efficiencies, we adjusted our autocross schedule to make for shorter days. We scheduled our events to better facilitate autocrossing and rally activities. All in all, we had an outstanding year.

I'll begin setting the scene for 2005 by repeating the results of club election. Though none of the races where contested I know we are not getting stale. This year's evolution of the Board is sure to continue making the Southern Indiana Region more fun for more people. "Normally" – except we keep re-electing the RE – the RE would become the Advisor to the Board. But that isn't possible again, so the Advisor to the Board is Terry Davis. By ratification of the membership the Assistant Activities Chairman is Tim Green. The Activities Chairman, without voter disenfranchisement, is Gene Young. By acclamation the Pit Stop Editor, and hoping that he will soon surpass his well-earned 2003 Small Region publication award...and any of our members that get correspondence from Chris Economaki and who have beaten Michael Waltrip need to be on our Board...is Paul Dornburg. The Treasurer will again be Gary Heck who has demonstrated the ability to have our checks and balances, well, check and balance. We'll test the theory that blonds are more fun with Steve Montgomery as our Secretary. We'll help ARE Ken Andrew continue to fail retirement through a series of special projects. The astute and insightful members of the region have – no doubt in part to my having been presented with the 2003 second place Small Region Achievement Award – reelected me as RE. Again. (Thanks!)

Among the goals for 2005 are increased participation in the SCCA convention; continuing to improve our course options in Lawrenceville; getting better at being aware of event safety issues; having a rallymaster school; doing more to encourage increased participation in Solo II Tour, Divisional, and National events. We are also going to strive to have more non-point ("fun") events – non-TSD rallies and social drives have been specifically mentioned. We're going to get the ball rolling, literally, with bowling events in January and February.

That's the preliminary sketch of 2005. Get your SIR year off to a good start by being at the January membership. The point you earn at the meeting will put you in first place in Berry Point competition! I'll guarantee it too!! You'll hear the latest on the bowling events and you'll also have the opportunity to book an event with Gene. I'm sure he'll be looking for autocross and rally events marshals.

I'll see you on Tuesday, January 11, at the Evansville Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon. Even if I have to make you play a stupid trivia game, it's going to be a fun start to a fun year!

Zoom-Zoom,  
Bob Sonntag, **Regional Executive**

### 2005 Board Members

|                           |                  |              |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Executive (RE)   | Bob Sonntag      | 812-477-5936 | Bob.Sonntag@WorldNet.ATT.net |
| Asst Regional Exec (ARE)  | Ken Andrew       | 812-425-7352 | ken911t@email.msn.com        |
| Secretary (SEC)           | Steve Montgomery | 812-425-7352 | sjm239@hotmail.com           |
| Treasurer (TRES)          | Gary Heck        | 812-858-9919 | gheck1@adelphia.net          |
| Activity Chair (AC)       | Gene Young       | 270-764-5950 | youngfg@yahoo.com            |
| Asst Activity Chair (AAC) | Tim Green        | 270-926-2859 | timgreenowb@yahoo.com        |
| Pit Stop Editor (PSE)     | Paul Dornburg    | 270-685-4470 | a911sc@bellsouth.net         |
| Advisor (ADV)             | Terry Davis      | 812-853-2875 | T_Davis@winkconstruction.com |

## **December Board Meeting**

The Directors held their meeting the last Monday of November at RE Bob Sonntag's house, called to order at 7:05 PM  
Officer reports were given, new Board members welcomed, new ARE absent  
Gary to write a 2004 secretary report for January PitStop  
Bob noted Charter application was in process, Officers contact information being refreshed, who will be the 2005 Subaru Point of contact?  
90 members, 87 regular, 1 associate, 2 dual  
Thank yous to be given to club supporters, airports, Wink.  
Plans made for Christmas Party Awards  
Last event review, Terry's rally, a little too fast.  
Upcoming events, O'boro light tour, Bowling tournament, no January Board meeting  
2005 Goals/Projects, new design for east end of Lawrenceville course, patch party, rally master school, SCCA convention attendees, more "fun" rallies, recruit more people for Nationals in Topeka.  
Adjournment at 8:21 PM

## **Notes and Such...**

On Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> we'll kick off round one of the **Winter SIR SCCA Challenge** at Diamond Lanes South Bowling Alley. Teams of two will go head to head for the overall trophy. Round two will be February 12<sup>th</sup> in Evansville at a site yet to be named. Trophies will be awarded for high team score and high individual score over the course of the two events and naturally there will be the year long bragging rights. Sign up is requested and can be done on-line at [www.myautoevents.com](http://www.myautoevents.com), by regular email or just a plain old phone call. We'll need a good idea of who is going to participate so let Paul Dornburg or any board member know by January 8<sup>th</sup>. That's a week before the event. The cost to bowl will be \$6.00 per bowler to cover the cost of the lane rental. If you need shoes that will be extra. We will have the lanes for two hours, 1:30 to 3:30 so it's important that you get there early so we can get started on time and have time for each team to bowl their three games. There will be two teams on each lane, four bowlers, so there should be enough time to get in the games. Don't miss out on what will surely be a fun time.

The Christmas light tour was held in Owensboro this year and a lot of ya'll missed the fun of riding through Daviess County in Bob's Expedition. Driver Bob Sonntag, navigator Gene young and passengers Tim Green, Julie Seeber and the Dornburg Duo toured the cold winter night looking at Owensboro's finest displays of lights. I am sad to report that those were the only participants but in spite of the small turnout we had a great time. The Christmas puns flowed easily from everyone's lips at each stop and at the end Julie hosted a fine reception in her new domicile.

## **Treasurer's Annual Report**

Season Greetings SIR SCCA Members. As 2004 draws to an end, I wanted to share some trends on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The SIR SCCA Rally Program continues to excite the few (well many more than a few short years ago), and the proud (well some more humble than a few years ago). The point is more SIR members have volunteered to organize and marshal a rally because more SIR members and guest have participated in a rally. Rallies are mentally challenging, real time paced and that means fast, split second decision making that is educational and fun (all at the same time). So like the bumper sticker says – Discover America, Get Lost on a Rally. Don't let the more than a few and less than proud have all the fun. Make a resolution to participate in a SIR SCCA rally in 2005.

Did someone say AUTOX, well yes they did and what a year we had in 2004. The opening book-end claimed sixty seven participants on May 16<sup>th</sup>. That turnout bested the 2003 event by twenty five and the 2002 event by twenty two and the 2001 event by twenty four. That's a positive growth trend in anybody's book. When you compare annual totals 2004 had 291 participants with an average of 41.6 and 2003 had 246 with an average of 34.6. So, keep up the good work and continue to support the AUTOX program and invite a friend to join us in precision driving at its best.

We remained solvent in 2004 and acquired new equipment for both the Rally and AUTOX programs. Improvements were made to the club trailer and timing equipment. We converted our power supply connections to allow us to eliminate the 12 volt batteries and that saves re-charging and hauling needless weight. Lettered signs were placed on the trailer to acknowledge our sponsors and benefactors. New event trophies were acquired and they are really neat.

Well, that will have to do until we meet again on January 11<sup>th</sup>, that's right mark your calendar for the second Tuesday of each month for the SIR SCCA regular club meeting. And don't be a WISH I HAD and forget to get your reservation in for the bowling event. More information is available in another part of PITSTOP.

Financially yours,  
Gary Heck, **Treasurer**

## **Autocross Review**

Our club held seven autocrosses this year, three at the Lawrenceville Airport, two at the Owensboro Airport and one each at Heritage Hills High School and The Civic Center. Tom Bootz was the Champion for the second year in a row. He didn't get a perfect score like last year but he did beat second place Gene Young by 163 points. There were six drivers that made all the events this year as opposed to eight last year.

Mechanical failures hampered some of the usual contenders. The Porsche driven by Paul Dornburg and Ken Andrew suffered transmission failure in the first event and that took them out of competition for the year end trophy. The replacement transmission, although good, was geared wrong and the car lacked its' usual get up and go. Gerry Bubenzer made four events before his CSP Mazda RX-7 trashed its' transmission at the second Lawrenceville event. We didn't see Gerry for the rest of the year. Terry Davis had some problems at the opening event and received minimum points. That result combined with a missed event put him way down the list at the end.

Our scoring allows street-tire cars to accumulate as many points as the race tired cars and after the first four events Glenn Deno was tied with Tom Bootz in the points. As a matter of fact he had more points because he made all the events but Glenn didn't compete at any events in the second half and dropped out of the race. Derek Funk was right in the thick of the street-tire wars despite running one event in the race tired class but alas he missed two events and fell out of contention.

Gene Young ran his LoCost to second in points this year. Gene had good runs at the Lawrenceville events but Owensboro's two events and the Heritage Hills event hurt him. His best effort was at the last event where he was on his new nationals tires.

Bob Sonntag started the year in his Rainbow colored Datsun before becoming Tom's boy in the potent LeGrand for the remaining events. Bob was tenth at mid-season but pulled himself up to third at years end. Will Bob continue to be in the LeGrand in 2005?

Barry Beaman made all the events and ran well garnering fourth place in points. He did this with his Miata on "hard" tires for the race tired class. A tire trailer and a set of stickies could make a difference for him next year.

Rookie driver Kent Schonberger drove his FJr kart to fifth place in points on the strength of a first place at the circular Owensboro event. Had he not missed an event he might have been in the top three.

Mike Freeman continued to flog his Turbo GTI doing very well in the first half and showed a flash a brilliance at Heritage Hills where he captured first place in points. The last three events were not as good and he slid from what could have been a top five in points to sixth.

Seventh in points was Tim Green in his first year in Gene's DM LoCost. Tim spent the year trying to learn how to drive the lightweight mod car and had it not been for mechanical failure at Heritage Hills he could have contended for a top five.

Jim Cannon was eighth in points and the first street-tired car. Jim started the year in "Ole Blue", his tired Fiero, but switched to an Eagle Talon after mid-year and made considerable improvement in the street-tired class with a seasons best at the last event.

Steve Backer drove his S2000 Honda to tenth in points showing steady improvement through the year with a best showing at the Civic Center event.

Tenth in points was retiring Assistant Regional Executive, Subaru point of contact, rally GPS gizmo guy and future SM2 driver Chris Moore. Chris drove his WRX in most of the events with a season high finish at the Civic Center.

I'm hoping that next year someone will stick with the street-tire class all year and give those race-tire guys a run for their money. Drivers to watch next year will be Tom Bootz, back again with the LeGrand but will it have a different drive train? Gene Young will have refined the LoCost even more. Bob Sonntag will do better in the LeGrand if it's available. Kent Schonberger now has a shifter kart so he may be the new FTD guy next year. Ken Andrew will find that Paul's 911 now has a new gearbox and different ratios to go along with a newer engine, the old 3.0 liter being returned to it's rightful place in Paul's 1980SC. Will Barry Beaman get softer tires for his Miata? Tim Green will improve in either Gene's car or his new LoCost. Glenn Deno, Derrick Funk and TJ Secord could put the street-tire class at the head of the class if they make all the events and Jim Cannon will keep them honest in his Talon. Don Kelly didn't figure in the points but he was getting faster at each event in his Del Sol and let's not over look John Coen in the Formula Vee. If he can make it steer a little easier he could put it up in the points as he gets more comfortable in it. Maybe Terry Davis can get Jeff Jackson to bring the Boxster to a few more events than he did last year which will help both of them in the points. And of course we can't forget Mike Freeman. Perhaps he'll find a couple of courses that fit his driving style and pull out good results.

Since I'm running short of room I'll cover the Rally season next month and hopefully we'll have an event schedule for the upcoming season

Happy New Year! – Paul Dornburg – *PitStop Editor*

## All 2005 Dates Are Tentative!!!

| January 05  | February 05  | March 05  |
|---|--|---|
| 8 – Bowling Sign up<br>11 - Tue- Membership meeting<br>Lonestar Steakhouse - Just off Green River Rd<br>15 – Bowling Tournament Round One<br>Owensboro, KY - Diamond Lanes South<br>Sign in at 12:30 PM, 1 <sup>st</sup> ball at 1:30 PM<br>27 – 30 SCCA Convention<br>31 – Feb Board Meeting | 8 - Tue- Membership meeting<br>Lonestar Steakhouse<br>Just off Green River Rd<br>12 - Bowling Tournament Round Two<br>Evansville<br>Rally #1<br>28 – Mar Board Meeting | 8 - Tue- Membership meeting<br>Lonestar Steakhouse<br>Just off Green River Rd<br>Rally #2<br>Autocross #1, SnowBuster<br>Patch Party Part I - Lawrenceville, IL                   |
| April 05  | May 05   | June 05   |
| Patch Party II - Lawrenceville, IL<br>9:00 AM until holes are filled<br>4– Board Meeting<br>12-Tue- Membership meeting<br>Lonestar Steakhouse<br>Just off Green River Rd<br>Sat-Test & Tune-Lawrenceville, IL<br>Rally #3   | 2– Board Meeting<br>10-Tue-Membership meeting<br>Lonestar Steakhouse, Evansville<br>just off Green River Rd<br>Autocross #2, Lawrenceville, IL<br>Opening Bookend      | 6 – Board Meeting<br>Autocross #3, Heritage Hills HS<br>14 - Membership meeting<br>Lonestar Steakhouse, Evansville<br>Just off Green River Rd.<br>Autocross #4, Owensboro Airport |

### Autocross Events:

9:30 A.M. - Course set-up begins  
 11:00 A.M. - Registration and Tech open  
 12:30 P.M. - Registration and Tech close!!!  
 12:45 P.M. - Driver's meeting  
 1:00 P.M. – First car off

### Rally Events:

12:30 P.M. -- Registration and Tech open  
 1:00 P.M. -- Registration and Tech close  
 1:15 P.M. -- Driver's meeting  
 1:30 P.M. – First car off

### Membership Meetings:

6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. -- Socializing  
 7:00 P.M. -- Dinner  
 8:00 P.M. -- Business meeting

Those who know they will be late arriving for an autocross should let Paul Dornburg know in advance

E-mail or phone by 6:00 PM the preceding day or register at [myautoevents.com](http://myautoevents.com)

Paul Dornburg - [a911sc@bellsouth.net](mailto:a911sc@bellsouth.net) - 270-685-4470 home - 270-570-4107 cell - 270-993-3994 cell

Lawrenceville Autocrosses are at Mid-American Air Park near Lawrenceville, IL

Owensboro Autocrosses are at Owensboro/Daviess County Airport, Owensboro, KY

Heritage Hills Autocross is at Heritage Hills High School parking lot, Santa Claus, IN

Civic Center Autocross is held at the Evansville Civic Center parking lot

## **SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA**

### **SCCA: A club with many interests**

Many faceted in it's endeavors, the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) might best be described as a service organization. It servers over 50,000 members throughout the United States by sanctioning and administering a variety of automotive related activities through more than 100 independently chartered regions. No other single motor sports organization in the world conducts more events than the SCCA. These events range from amateur and professional road racing, to rallies, SOLO events, hill climbs and auto shows. The SCCA is an ever-growing organization for the automotive enthusiast. Because the SCCA is member oriented, the club stresses participation on a broad basis. Regardless of your experience or background, if you are an automotive enthusiast there is a place for you in the SCCA. The avenues available range from amateur or professional road race driver, to weekend rally or SOLO driver, to race worker or official. In order to successfully sanction and conduct a comprehensive autocross/rally/road racing program many experts in timing and scoring, communications, safety inspection, medical, flagging, course/race control and other skills are needed. Schools are held to train the drivers and workers and various degrees of licenses are awarded based on knowledge, ability and experience. Do any of you ever read this paragraph? If so, come up to me at the next event and say ALCUMPUCKY

***PitStop*** is the official publication of the Southern Indiana Region of the Sports Car Club of America, Inc. and is published monthly at PO Box 1112, Evansville, IN 47706. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors or editor and are not necessarily those of the Southern Indiana Region; it's officials, members or advertisers. Permission to reprint material from ***PitStop*** is granted to all SCCA regional publications and it's national publication, ***SportsCar***, with regards for full credit to the author and ***PitStop***. Hi Mom!