



The Pit Stop!



SCCA Southern Indiana Region Monthly Newsletter March 2005 Volume 52 Number 3

March Report



March. Seems like it was only just a couple of weeks ago that we were shoveling snow, harping on cold temperatures and crummy days, and looking forward to the first ever SIR bowling events. It's March now. The bowling is done.

The days are getting longer. The weather nicer – warmer anyway – and seems to be much more enjoyable. A quick look at our event schedule and you can see we are getting hot and heavy with Phase 1 of the 2005 rally program. Very soon we'll be autocrossing again.

One sad bit of news to report this month. After a year or so of dealing with some serious health issues, Dororthea Groenert passed away on February 13. When I started playing with the SCCA, Dot was the club's matriarch. Though we haven't seen Dot for a while, for years she and her husband George were as expected at autocross events or meetings as entry fees or fun. Though I never remember entering an autocross, I do remember that he posted times at autocross events forever. Dot and George were among those that didn't rally but regularly worked checkpoints. Dot received the Indian Award at least once and served as membership chairman for many years. In the days of SIR car shows in Washington Square Mall, she made sure that anybody that showed the slightest interest got a warm and friendly greeting. She'll be missed for sure.

The February membership meeting attendance was disappointing. Only fifteen members and three guests. Uh, change that "disappointing" to "not what I'd hoped." I mean, with more than 15% of attendees being guests, information on a potential new site, and a returning guest I shouldn't complain! But, we didn't have as much fun as if (insert your name) had been there too!!

The bright side of the low meeting turn out was that the Board was well protected from any negative

reaction to the news that event entry fees have raised to \$20 with a \$2 discount for pre-registration. The new fee will apply to both autocross and rally events. Our entry fees have been below the norm and it has been several years since the last increase. Though we're quite good with our money the club's expenses, both in general and per entrant vehicle, have constantly increased. I'll mention that we proved Chris Moore's MBA hypothesis that raising our entry fees would increase participation with last year's Awards Banquet. We raised the price and had the biggest turnout in many years if not forever. Now if you would all continue to do your part to help the hypothesis hold true for autocross and rally events.

At the February membership meeting Paul Dornburg and I were presented with our Region Publication and Region Achievement Awards. For the second year in a row Paul and Pit Stop finished third in the small region category. Paul does an outstanding job with Pit Stop! Both Paul and Pit Stop serve the club very well indeed. With the excellent support, guidance, and encouragement of the SIR Board and participation by the membership, SIR earned the first place small Region Achievement Award. As RE, I get the credit (and cool trophy) but I know that it's others in the club that make this possible. For that help, I thank you. If you'd like a trophy of your own, next October let me know you want to be RE.

Another bit of business was an explanation of what we can expect at the Coen Bingo rally on Sunday, February 27. If reading this before the rally, give some thought to coming out for this event. It is sure to be a fun time. Think photo scavenger hunt. You'll need a digital or Polaroid camera to take pictures described on Bingo cards. I'm sure John and Mimsie have done a great job preparing for this event. Though this style of fun event is new to us, it's sure to be a blast.

We follow the Coen Bingo rally with two weekends of Time/Speed/Distance rallies. Paul

Dornburg is doing the Owensboro DQ to DQ rally on March 6. Gene Young has the rallymaster duties for our March 13 rally. Check out the calendar and watch SIRSCCA@yahoo.com postings for the details.

Who is going to be the hot rally team this year? The Moores are too far from the picture. John Coen and Frank Totten switched things around last year and found success. Ken Andrew is expected to try out a home-grown rally program. Will he switch roles with navigator Paul Dornburg? Terry Davis and I have turned some good checkpoint scores in each of the last rallies. Have we figured out our problems or just been lucky? (The former! I'm sure.) That's the 50,000 foot look at the equipped "A" class contenders.

Class "B" is wide open. Will the Cannons return from hiatus this year? New member Kathryn Birdwell spent last year learning tricky of landmarks like "water tower" and the ever elusive "silo." Has her beginner's luck run out? There is always the opportunity (pun intended) for quiet team to start giving lessons too. Is this the year Ted Eagleson settles on a rally partner and makes some noise? Team Heck could be contenders. The Baileys too. The Nicholsons haven't been out in a while. Perhaps Team Wior will show us again how to just cruise to victory. Gene Young seems to be a navigator looking for success. We also have that very real possibility that the unknown guest teams will be lucky...again...and again...and again.

Well, like Dornburg's new bigger front tires – I've used all my allotted room and then some.

I'll see you at the rallies and at the membership meeting on Tuesday, March 8, at the Evansville Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon. If it'll help get you out to our next event, "Pfffttt!!"

Zoom-Zoom,
Bob Sonntag, *Regional Executive*

PS: What is alumpcky for?
(Ed.-Alumpcky is the cure for Fever-delert with aralika-plux)

2005 Board Members

Regional Executive (RE)	Bob Sonntag	812-477-5936
Asst Regional Exec (ARE)	Ken Andrew	812-425-7352
Secretary (SEC)	Steve Montgomery	812-437-3087
Treasurer (TRES)	Gary Heck	812-858-9919
Activity Chair (AC)	Gene Young	270-764-5950
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Pit Stop Editor (PSE)	Paul Dornburg	270-685-4470
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Ken Andrew ARE

January Club Meeting

- Membership Meeting 2-8-05
- Meeting called to order at 8:03 p.m.
- Introduction of guests: Troy McClean and James Slater
- Secretary- Reading of minutes from previous meeting.
- Treasurer's Report- We've got money.
- Advisor to the Board Report- No Report.
- Activities Chairman- Absent
- Assistant Activity Chairman- Absent
- Assistant Regional Executive- No Report
- Pit Stop Editor- February 19th is the deadline for this month's Pit Stop
- Regional Executive's Report- SIR SCCA Charter has been renewed

- Event Entry Fees have been raised to \$20/event (\$18/event if pre-registered)
 - Membership Update- 89 members
 - Old Business
 - Awards- Paul Dornburg- Awarded 3rd Place for Small Region Newsletter
 - SIR SCCA- Awarded 1st Place for Small Region Achievement for our RE
 - New Business
 - Activity Report- 2nd Half of the bowling tournament on 2-12-05
 - Upcoming Event- Bingo Rally 2-27-05
 - Upcoming Event- Paul Dornburg's Rally 3-6-05
 - Sturgis Airport (KY) Information- James Slater
 - Card Drawing- Theresa Bailey wins a free entry into the bowling event.
 - Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 p.m.
- Respectfully Submitted, Steve Montgomery, *Secretary*

Notes and Such...

For the second year in a row this newsletter got third place amongst all the publications for "small" SCCA regions. In an effort to improve our position in the 2005 competition and also improve our reporting, I have asked former PitStop Editor, Mike Freeman, to write a column each month pertaining to the history of the club. I think us "newbies" need to know who put down the roots for this club and how the club came to be what it is. Who were the movers and shakers? Who hosted the most outrageous events? How did they get the cars out of the trees? I'm sure we'll answer all those questions in the coming months and more.

On Saturday, February 12th we had round two of the Winter SIR SCCA Challenge at Willow Lanes Bowling Alley in Evansville. 10 bowlers showed up to test their skills on the moonlit lanes. After a few minutes of practice, and some more minutes trying to find the right data input buttons in the dim light, bowling began. The conditions could be likened to working a Nationals autocross course when C-Prepared is running. Utter chaos, minus the cones. The blaring music and flashing lights could have given someone an epileptic fit. Concentration levels were either extremely high, or non-existent. Glenn Deno came out with a strong game for the men while Jan Bootz had the high ladies game. Ronnie Groenert had the distinction of the most improved bowler. He "opened" his way to a 50 in the first game and then "bowled" a 130 in the second. Ronnie has had a tough couple of years with his health and it was good to see him out and about. Check out the score page to see all the bowling scores.

Our competition year is loaded heavily on the front end with Rallies. Starting on February 27th with John Coen's "Bingo" Rally and then two more consecutive weekends of rally's. John's rally starts at the Subway restaurant at the Pilot Truck stop on Rt41, north of I-64. John says bring a digital camera for picture taking and a notebook for downloading your pictures. Don't bring a stopwatch. You'll get two hours to collect as many pictures as you can to make your Bingo card a winning one. And you do not want to miss the after the event party. The Halloween rally had quite a spread as well as very nice rewards for the winners.

On March 6th Paul Dornburg holds the "Ice Cream" Rally which starts at the east side DQ on US 60 East in Owensboro and ends at the DQ on the southeast side. Then on March 13th Gene Young puts on the next rally which will also be held in Daviess County. Starting point for Gene's Rally is Ben Hawes State Park. The 2005 schedule of events is included in this issue and shows events through June of this year.

Corvettes and Hope – Carolyn and I recently visited her niece, Johanna, at WKU in Bowling Green, KY. We got to meet Johanna's room mate Hope Armstrong who is also a student at WKU. Hope's part time job is giving tours at the Corvette assembly plant. I quizzed her about the new Z06 Corvette and she rattled off build dates, delivery dates, engine and performance specs. She related the story of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s purchase of a new Corvette for his Mom. He flew to Bowling Green before Christmas and took delivery of it. She said the Corvette Museum was full of people hoping to see Jr. Unfortunately for Hope, and Jr. I might add, Hope

was off that day. Hope is what I would call a perfect date for a motor-head. Hopefully her date would want to know more about her than just what she knows about cars.

Chicago Auto Show - Recently Carolyn and I went to the Chicago Auto Show while on a business trip. For a measly ten dollars one got to see every product for every car manufacturer in the world! It cost more to park than to get in. One could sit in all of them except for the exotics like Bentley, Maserati, Lamborghini or Ferrari. We tried a lot of the Porsches on for size, a few Toyota cars and trucks and the new Scions. I liked that little Xb. Ford had a BIG screen TV that was as big as the side of my house! Actually they had two, one on each end of their display area and they ran the commercials for their products. I especially liked the GT40 that had been sliced in two, length-wise, to reveal the design and build of the car. I'd like to see the big band saw they used! Chrysler had a test track so one could take a ride in any of their models. If you choose a off-road type vehicle to ride in you were treated to a test track complete with rocks and boulders, steep climbs, water crossings and ground clearance needed roads. If you opted for an on road vehicle you got to go through the acceleration test, brake test and "see-how-quiet-it-can-be" test. I'd say there was at least a half mile of track. It's billed as the biggest North American Auto show because it's the largest venue in which an auto show is held in North America.

I hate it when my memory goes blank even after I've been given enough information that I should not forget. That happened to me the other night at the membership meeting. Troy McLean, a former business vendor for me, sent me an email saying he was considering joining the club and would probably attend the club meeting in February. Troy and I had done business in the mid 90's and we got to be friends. We even went to the Indy 500 together, staying at Terre Haute the night before the race and making the journey to hallowed ground the morning of the event. Now how could I forget him? Well, I did. He came over and sat down and re-introduced himself telling me about his Miata and how he hopes to take it to some of our events. All the while I'm racking my brain trying to remember his name. Finally I had to sheepishly admit to him I didn't remember his name. He was so good about it. We spent the rest of the night catching up. This little note is my way of permanently imprinting his name in my brain, at least for a few months. Just kidding, Troy.

A couple of things I meant to mention in the last newsletter fell through the cracks in my brain so here's a catch up.

If you ever get the chance to hear Chris Economaki, editor of the National Speed Sport News, at a speaking engagement, please take it. The man has seen so much racing and has such an eloquent speaking style that you will be transfixed while he pours out the years of his racing experience. He spoke to the crowd at the Chili Bowl, where he was the Grand Marshall, and you could here a pin drop in the place. His sentences were clear and concise with excellent diction and form. No mumbling or "uhhs" like you so often hear. It was a real treat to listen to his short dissertation on the state of racing in the 21st century.

Another treat at the Chili Bowl happened after the races had been concluded. Carolyn and I were about 100 feet from the exit when we saw a couple of figures exiting the production trailer for the event filming. I looked at the two of them and one of them was my long time Owensboro friend Army Armstrong. He had flown in to do color commentary for the filming of the Chili Bowl. It was his first visit and if he can help it, it won't be his last. What great timing to be walking past that trailer about the time he was leaving. I always enjoy talking to Army and this time was no different.

Mike's Take...

Paul Dornburg had asked me to do some articles for PIT STOP on some of the history of SIR. I was going to start with when I joined the club in 1972, but with the death of Dot Groenert I changed my mind and decided to kind of cover the Groenerts involvement with the club.

I am not sure what year George and Dot joined SIR but they brought three bright kids with them; Rick, Ron and Tammy. When they joined only Rick was old enough to drive. (I am probably wrong about that and others could tell me for sure) Tammy eventually met her husband in the club. Ron's wife Debbie and my brother's wife Jenny showed up chasing those two, Ron and my brother. (I never could figure out that "younger" crowd)

George had a really slick V8 powered Corvair, the thought of it still makes me mad at Ralph Nader. The car had plenty of power but the tire technology was certainly not where it is today. As a matter of fact I think George might have invented drifting with that car. Then they added a Z-car to the stable and it was painted a beautiful butterscotch color. (for some reason most people didn't like the stock Datsun colors) George later bought a Super V formula car to autocross and fought that car for several years. It ended up being bought by Bruce Domek, over in Louisville, who knew the secrets of making the water-cooled VW engines work. Bruce promptly went out and won his first National title with the car. I couldn't count the number of people that had Ron wrenching on some problem on their cars at autocrosses. If something needed to be done there would be a Groenert involved, they didn't need to be asked twice and a many times jumped in before any asking took place.

I think the SIR Traveling Circus got started because of George and Dot. Indianapolis, Columbus, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Louisville became regular stops for the Circus. They even had their own T-shirts! That lead the club into being associated with a lot of out of town people and that ended up leading SIR into doing the Tour events.

Dot was the greatest ambassador for the club and there was never an event she was at that she didn't have a plate of banana bread that she passed out to everyone. She took it upon herself to be everyone's "mother". I know when I would be running and Mary wanted to watch me, Dot would look after our kids like they were hers.

SIR would certainly be different today and we are all better off because the Groenerts blessed us with their participation in SIR.

Important Notices:

1. The following paragraph will be stamped on the back of autocross registration cards and has to be signed before one can compete in an event.

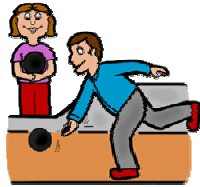
If I damage property AND an SCCA incident report is filled I am responsible for prompt payment of costs to repair damaged property.

We're adding this clause because of an incident last year that depleted the clubs' bank account by \$500.00

2. Entry Fees are now \$20.00 per event, \$18.00 if you pre-register

Berry Points as of Jan.

Ken Andrew	1
Nancy Andrew	1
James Barrow	1
Gerry Bubbenzer	1
Jim Cannon	1
Mimsie Coen	1
John Coen	1
Terry Davis	1
Tim Green	1
Gary Heck	1
Steve Montgomery	1
Barry Schonberger	1
Kent Schonberger	1
Bob Sonntag	1
Glenn Wior	1
Gene Young	1



Round Two

Bowler	Raw Scores	Game 1	Game 2
Bob Sonntag		103	103
Carolyn Dornburg		141	159
Crystal		130	131
Glenn Deno		169	182
Jan Bootz		171	133
Jim Lee		126	143
Jim Sutton		138	145
Paul Dornburg		135	201
Ron Groenert		50	102
Terry Davis		146	122

Total	Average	High Game
206	103	103
300	150	159
261	131	131
351	176	182
304	152	171
269	135	143
283	142	145
336	168	201
152	76	102
268	134	146

Team Scores	Game 1	Game 2	Total	Hi Game
Paul Dornburg / Carolyn Dornburg	276	360	636	360
Glenn Deno / Jim Lee	295	325	620	325
Jim Sutton / Bob Sonntag	241	248	489	248

High Series Team	Paul Dornburg / Carolyn Dornburg	636
High Game Team	Paul Dornburg / Carolyn Dornburg	360

Bowling Trophies

Male Bowlers

Highest game	highest in any game
Glenn Deno	231
Highest Series	includes 5 games
Paul Dornburg	911
Highest Average	average for games bowled
Paul Dornburg	182

Female Bowlers

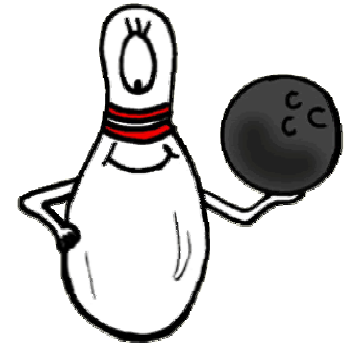
Highest game	highest in any game
Jan Bootz	171
Highest Series	includes 5 games
Carolyn Dornburg	724
Highest Average	average for games bowled
Jan Bootz	152

Teams

Highest Series	
Paul Dornburg / Carolyn Dornburg	1359
Highest game - tie	
Paul Dornburg / Carolyn Dornburg	360
Glenn Deno / Jim Lee	360

Most Consistent	
Bob Sonntag	+/- 25

variance per game over 5 games



Shopping Season

It is time for the annual SCCA merchandise order. A consolidated order will be sent to the SCCA on March 15, 2005. That is one week after our March membership meeting. Please place your order in person at the March membership meeting (Tuesday, March 8th) in the Alamo Room at Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon ** 945 North Green River Road ** Evansville, IN 47715 ** 812-473-5468 You may also e-mail or US mail or phone me your order anytime before the March 15th.

I hope to be able to distribute the goods at our April 12th membership meeting and will collect the money at that time.

A complete shopping list will be available at the membership meeting. Listed here are only the commonly ordered items. To use this form to order, simply print your name on the Name of Customer line and indicate the number of each item you desire and Submit your orders...at the membership meeting (you're catching on)...or fax to Gary Heck c/o (812) 435-5468 or e-mail them to gheck1@adelphia.net or mail them to SIR/SCCA, PO Box 1112, Evansville, Indiana 47706-1112.

Gary L Heck

(812) 435-2468 Office
 (812) 858-9919 Home
 (812) 435-5468 Fax

Name of Customer: _____ Phone: _____

Customer Email Address: _____

Item #	Item Description	Quantity	SCCA Member Price	Non-member Price
4640	SCCA Wire Wheel lapel pin		\$5.00	\$7.00
5665R	Solo I & II Rules includes CD ROM		\$20	\$25.00
5667R	Road Rally Rules includes CD ROM		\$20	\$25.00
5675R	General Competition Rules & Specifications includes CD ROM		\$25	\$37.50
Total			\$	\$

2005 Schedule

January 05	February 05	March 05
8 – Bowling Sign up 11 - Tue- Membership meeting Lonestar Steakhouse - Just off Green River Rd 15 – Bowling Tournament Round One Owensboro, KY - Diamond Lanes South 27 – 30 SCCA Convention 31 – Feb Board Meeting	8 - Tue- Membership meeting Lonestar Steakhouse, just off Green River Rd 12 - Bowling Tournament Round Two Willow Lanes, Evansville IN Sign in at 1:00 PM, 1 st ball at 1:30 PM 27 - Rally #1 – Bingo Rally - John Coen Start at Pilot Truckstop just north of I-64 on US 41 28 – Mar Board Meeting	6 - Rally #2 – Ice Cream Rally – Paul Dornburg Start at DQ on US 60 East, Owensboro, KY 8 - Tue- Membership meeting, Evansville IN Lonestar Steakhouse, just off Green River Rd 13 – Rally #3 – Gene Young – Starts at Ben Hawes State Park, Owensboro, KY 18-20 SCCA Tour Event-Walnut Ridge, AR 20 - Autocross #1, SnowBuster-Civic Center, Evansville, IN
April 05	May 05	June 05
4– Board Meeting 8-10 SCCA Tour Event, Atlanta, GA 9 – Sat - Patch Party Part I - Lawrenceville, IL 9:00 AM until holes are filled 12-Tue- Membership meeting, Evansville IN Lonestar Steakhouse, just off Green River Rd 16 – Sat - Patch Party II - Lawrenceville, IL 9:00 AM until holes are filled 23 - Sat-Test & Tune-Lawrenceville, IL	1 - Rally #4 2– Board Meeting 10-Tue-Membership meeting, Evansville IN Lonestar Steakhouse, just off Green River Rd 15 - Autocross #2, Lawrenceville, IL Opening Bookend	5 - Autocross #3, Heritage Hills HS 6 – Board Meeting 10-12 SCCA Tour Event, Toledo, OH 14 - Membership meeting, Evansville IN Lonestar Steakhouse, just off Green River Rd. 25 - Autocross #4, Owensboro Airport 26 - SoIL Autocross, Lawrenceville, IL ??? 27 – Board Meeting

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

Arriving late? Contact Paul Dornburg in advance by E-mail or phone by 6:00 PM the preceding day or register at myautoevents.com

Paul Dornburg - 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

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

** Owensboro Autocrosses are at Owensboro/Daviess County Airport, Owensboro, KY, course setup will be done after the plane leaves around 11:00 AM

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!