



The PitStop!



SCCA Southern Indiana Region Monthly Newsletter February 2007 Volume 54 Number 2

February REport

I just got back from the Chili Bowl midget races in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It's an event/happening that takes place every year in January. Our club is going to be part of an event/happening this year in July when Bowler Transmissions puts on their annual "Day at the Drag Races" at Lawrenceville's Mid American Airport. If you missed it last year, Bowler held a car show/drag race/autocross on a Saturday in July. This year it's going to fill the whole weekend with the car show and autocross on Saturday and the drags on Sunday.

In years past the Lawrenceville the airport was the site for road racing and drag racing. Some of the earliest drag racing speed records were set on the runways of the WWII air base. I talked with Tom Blackford in Owensboro and he related his stories about taking his car to the drags at the airport some years ago. Club member John Coen told me some stories about road racing that went on there and the characters that raced. John even pointed out an old dirt track just off Route 50 where he used to go to watch midgets race.

On Saturday July 21st we'll be putting on the autocross event for the "Day at the Drag Races" weekend. We'll need workers to help set up the course, help work the event, inspect vehicles and instruct drivers. Admission for all is free. That's right, no cost, just bring your car and drive. Because the drags are being held on Sunday there won't be any space problems for the autocross. It'll be a great time to see the cars at the cars show and drive your car at the autocross. We'll have more details as time goes by. Mark your calendar!

In years past the SCCA sent out a questionnaire that was filled out by the RE. It was called the Region Achievement Awards Program. The RE would fill out the form with all the things done by the club over the past year. Points were awarded for doing certain things in different categories. For the last 2 years the Southern Indiana Region took home first place for the small regions. (Regions with less than 100 members) I eagerly awaited the form late last year but it never showed up! An email arrived the first week of January from the SCCA that was worded thusly.

"Do to some lack of clarity on the direction of the Region Achievement awards for 2006, we really didn't structure a formal program. It has truly been one of my biggest challenges since I started here four years ago to create a program that had some meaning. None of the iterations come close, and 2006 just faded away. But we don't want to diminish any accomplishments that are worthy or recognition, so I am going to ask for a little indulgence and hopefully some very fast stepping on you part. Please gather together any information you can muster up (publicity, list of good deeds, charity stuff, whatever) and e-mail or quick mail to me no later than a week from tomorrow. We will form a committee of staffers here (like in the past) and come up with five Regional Award winners (one for each size category) and two Honorable Mentions. Thanks everyone, and I really apologize for the last minute request."

I was hard pressed to get everything together in such short time but I managed. Bob Sonntag was a great help providing me with last years' winning document submission. I only hope I wrote as eloquently as Bob did. Hopefully Dr. Jim Butler will pick up our award in San Antonio the beginning of February.

I've been talking with the Editor of the Owensboro newspaper about getting the word out about our events. He's assured me that if I send him some copy (newspaper talk) about our events he'll make sure it gets published. I'll also send the article to the Henderson and Evansville newspapers. I'd like to drum up more participation in our events and hopefully more members to replace our slightly sagging enrollment.

How many of you like our Rallys? I think not too many as I look down the attendance numbers for 2006. I'm going to say the average turnout is about 4 cars. The last 2 Rallys didn't even meet that average. I can't see us keeping this up unless we change something. The word gimmick has popped up but I'm taking a different approach. We should try to find those "puzzle" people who are car enthusiasts. Appeal to those who spend the first part of their day solving crosswords or Sudoku puzzles. Then perhaps we structure the instructions like their puzzles. Or maybe we give simple, straight forward instructions that place the emphasis on maintaining the correct average speed. We've got to do something. Rally masters spend too much time preparing a Rally only to have a few people show up. (gets off of soapbox)

No bowling tournament this year. I'm out of town too much and I've got this crispy 911 I need to work on. In case you didn't know, Carrie Moore's 1979 911SC Porsche (Winnie) caught fire in November. Using a WRX floor mat, Chris was able to put out the fire without too much body damage but a lot of engine fuel system damage. In one of my weak moments, I told Chris that if he got the car to Owensboro, from Savannah, I'd fix it for them. I won't go into the story about helping the guy who towed the car to Owensboro fix his destroyed trailer axle wheel bearing. The newer wiring harness has been patched in, the engine sheet metal cleaned and painted, plastic bits have been procured, a bushel of odd parts purchased, melted gaskets replaced, new ignition system bought and a new electronic fuel system is awaiting the final intake pieces. Chris and Carrie were in town between Christmas and New Years and they came to the house to help disassemble and clean all the nasty parts. Their next visit is at Easter and I'm hoping they can drive it home then.

I had a nice conversation with Tom Bootz about his year of road racing. I was interested in why he chose to race in DSR. "Three pages," he said. "There's only 3 pages of rules for DSR in the GCR. That's why I chose it. Less hassling about how legal the car is." Tom struggled all year with his new car and is making changes that should make it more drivable next year.

That's all for this month. I hope to see you at our next event be that a Rally or a Club meeting.
Racingly, Paul Dornburg *SIR Regional Executive.*

In last month's REport Paul Dornburg mentioned the state of the SIR rally program. The hope is that this year we have more people participating in our rallies. This article is the first in a series of articles that will briefly explain rally concepts, what can be expected at one of our rallies, and hopefully convey some of the fun that rallying offers. If you'd like to suggest a topic, "I'm listening" as Frazier Crane would say.

There is a fair amount of time invested in finding the route, writing the instructions, working out the leg times, and checking instructions. That's a lot of effort to have put forth when we don't have enough cars to make the rally worthwhile. Rallies can be great fun, but only if you participate. We can turn out 30 to 40 cars for autocross, so why can't we even get 10 cars out for a rally?

We do two kinds of rallies. Neither is like the Dakar or WRC events. Our rallies are Time/Speed/Distance and gimmick rallies on public roads. In a Time/Speed/Distance (T/S/D) rally the idea is to maintain the exact average speed while following a prescribed course. We usually start cars about two minutes apart so that all of the cars have a sense of being alone and are not just following one and another.

Our gimmick rallies have taken several forms. The Freeman/Bootz "Food Rally" and the Coen/Coen "Bingo Rally" are two examples of these rallies. In the more distant past we have played Yahtzee and demonstrated James Bond, baseball, and St Valentine's Day trivia knowledge. We have also done a sign hunt rally. In these gimmick rallies the scoring isn't determined by how well one can stay on course and on time. The object is to provide the best meal, get the best set of pictures, or simply stay on course by knowing bits of trivia (or being a good at guessing).

The key to enjoying rallies is to understand that they can be frustrating. Getting lost is a possibility. It is all part of the fun. After all a rally isn't much more than a structured afternoon drive. Keep in mind that many things are difficult and frustrating the first few times. Unfortunately, when you're in a game that might stretch for 65 miles a coach probably won't be there to help immediately. (So remember to make a note and ask later.) If you're new to rallying just remember that there might be some school of hard knocks tuition.

I like to think of rallying in terms of an excuse to enjoy a fun afternoon driving around the tri-state. Our rallies are on nicely paved and fun roads to drive. An autocross event lets the driver push the car and his or her precision driving skill to the limit. It's an adrenaline rush for sure and feedback is immediate. In a rally, the buzz is from staying on course, on time, and in the game. Some of the fun is in knowing that others are doing the same things – counting to three on fingers, working on keeping left and right straight, and wondering if that last road really was paved.

We open our 2007 rally season with a gimmick rally by John Coen. Having just about perfected the "Bingo Rally" John is working on something a little different for this year. It's sure to be something fun. John's rally is Sunday, February 11, from the Subway at US-41 and I-64. Tech and registration will be from 12:30 to 1:00 P.M. and as always a \$2 discount is offered MyAutoEvents.com early registration.

Bob Sonntag
Activities Chair
E-mail: bob.sonntag@att.net
Home: 812-477-5936

General Instructions

Bingo Rally

February, 2007

What is this year's Bingo Rally? -- You will be given a bingo type card which will have pictures of scenes you may see along the rally route. To get credit for a square you must take a picture of the same scene that can easily be identified as the same place. You can also claim some squares by being at the control points at the correct time.

Route – The route for this rally will be based on the format of an SCCA "Tour" rally. SCCA says the following about a Tour Rally --

"A Touring rally is a time-speed-distance contest with straight-forward course following. There is never a deliberate attempt to lead the contestant off course, and typically redundant/confirming instructions are provided if there is an apparent opportunity to get lost."

In other words, you should have no problem staying on course and your time can be spent taking pictures and being at the right place at the right time. When possible you may also be given street names as an aid.

Controls -- Controls are a "do-it-yourself" type and will consist of a clock on a board or post. To get credit for that square you must take your picture of that clock within one minute of the correct time, before or after.

Starting point will be the Subway at the Pilot truck stop just north of the intersection of Interstate 64 and US Route 41. End of the rally will be at the Hornville Tavern at the intersection of Baseline and Owensville Roads.

Registration and tech inspection will be at the usual time. Cars out at 1:30. Running time will be about two hours.

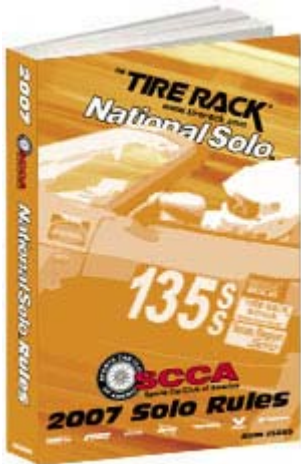
Bring a digital camera. If you can't find one, come anyway. Someone will have an extra.

Berry Points (as of January 20)	
Name	Points
Darrin Bailey	1
Teresa Bailey	1
Jan Bootz	1
Tom Bootz	1
Jim Cannon	1
Terry Davis	1
Carolyn Dornburg	1
Paul Dornburg	1
Gary Heck	1
Eric Provost	1
Bob Sonntag	1



Who is this guy?

Shopping Season



It is time for the annual SCCA merchandise order. A consolidated order will be sent to the SCCA on March 20, 2007. That is one week after our March membership meeting. Please place your order in person at the March membership meeting (Tuesday, March 13th) 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 March 20th.

I hope to be able to distribute the goods at our April 10th 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 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
(812) 858-9919
(812) 435-5468

Office
Home
Fax

Name of Customer: _____ Phone: _____

Customer Email Address: _____

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>SCCA Member Price</u>	<u>TOTAL COST OF SCCA Member ORDER BY ITEM</u>	<u>Non-member Price</u>
5665R	2007 Solo Rules		\$20	\$	\$25.00
5675R	2007 General Competition Rules & Specifications		\$25	\$	\$35.00
			TOTAL COSTS	\$	\$

2007 Schedule

February 07	March 07	April 07
2.01 Thursday SCCA National Convention 2.02 Friday SCCA National Convention 2.03 Saturday SCCA National Convention 2.03 Saturday Owensboro Racers' Auction 2.04 Sunday Owensboro Racers' Auction 2.05 Monday Board Meeting 2.11 Sunday Fun Rally 2.13 Tuesday Membership Meeting 2.17 Saturday Pit Stop Deadline Rally School? -- Any interest? 2.25 Sunday	3.05 Monday Board Meeting 3.13 Tuesday Membership Meeting 3.17 Saturday Pit Stop Deadline 3.18 Sunday Pt Rally (1 of 7) 3.25 Sunday Snow Buster Fun Autocross	4.02 Monday Board Meeting 4.1 Tuesday Membership Meeting 4.15 Sunday Pt Rally (2 of 7) 4.21 Saturday Pit Stop Deadline 4.21 Saturday Patch Party #1 4.22 Sunday Patch Party #1 -- Rain date 4.27 Friday SCCA Tour Event 4.28 Saturday Patch Party #2 4.28 Saturday SCCA Tour Event 4.29 Sunday Patch Party #2 -- Rain date 4.29 Sunday SCCA Tour Event 4.30 Monday Board Meeting
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	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 - (H) 270-685-4470 - (C) 270-570-4107 - (W) 270-683-6553
 Lawrenceville Autocrosses are at Mid-American Air Park near Lawrenceville, IL
 Centre Autocrosses are held at the Evansville Civic Center parking lot
 Owensboro Autocrosses are at Owensboro/Daviess County Airport, Owensboro, KY