



# The *Pit Stop*



## SCCA Southern Indiana Region Monthly Newsletter - March 2014 - Volume 61 Number 3

### March 2014 REport

I love the Winter Olympics. During the two week event, I watch as much of it as I can - everything from curling to ice dancing (yes, I admit it, I watched ice dancing and enjoyed it - congratulations White & Davis!). My favorite events, though, are the racing events. It's amazing how many variations of "slide-across-snow-or-ice-in-the-shortest-amount-of-time" there are at the Olympics. As I watched the slalom alpine competitions, I realized just how similar that discipline is to one of our favorite past-times, autocrossing. In the slalom events, there are two different courses and each competitor has two runs on each course. One difference, however, every run counts - no DNF's allowed. Imagine that pressure. How do the competitors make the most of each run? They use some of the same techniques that we do. Many of the competitors could be seen at the start gate with their eyes closed visualizing the course. Replay footage of the runs clearly showed the competitors looking ahead at upcoming pylons...er...gates. It was particularly interesting when NBC superimposed multiple runs to compare lines between skiers. Finding the right line through the slalom was, of course, very important. Comparing slalom ski events to autocross has me thinking...maybe they should add autocross to the Summer Olympics.

Anyway, on to more important business...

As I mentioned in last month's report, March will be a very eventful month for the club. As I write this, I'm looking forward to the first of five consecutive busy weekends. Saturday, March 1st, Paul Dornburg hosted a Solo Safety Steward class at Townsquare Media. We should have some new Safety Steward candidates in the club by the time you read this. Thanks in advance to all of those who volunteered to take on the extra club responsibilities. Bob Sonntag's educational rally for "newbies" scheduled for Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> was postponed due to inclement weather. Be watching for more information at <http://sirsgca.org>, the email list, and all of our social media accounts for the make-good date.

Our March member meeting will be held at Smitty's on Tuesday, March 11th. As usual, we'll gather at 6:30 for dinner and the club meeting will begin around 7:30 with a program following the formal meeting. Our program this month will be presented by Chris Moore. He plans to share some of his recent track adventures including trips to Barber Motorsports Park and Road Atlanta. He'll also give us updates on both of the Monkey See race cars (#35 and #53). I'll bet Barry and Terry will also have some more club history lessons for us as well.

On Saturday, March 8th, we are planning to meet at the Mid-American Air Center to do a site survey in preparation for the patch parties. We'll start at 9AM and stay until we get all the new patches and patch repair locations marked. Everyone is welcome to join us. If we get enough people, we may be able to get a head start on cleaning the site. Doesn't that sound like fun? Keep an eye on the

mailing list and the club web site in the next couple of weeks for more details.

On Sunday, March 16th, Paul and Carolyn Dornburg will host our first points event of the season - their annual Ice Cream Rally in Owensboro, KY. This will be your opportunity to try out the new rally skills you learned during Bob's educational rally two weeks prior.

The last two weekends in March are reserved for our MAAC patch parties. At the time of this writing, we are experiencing some unexpected equipment allocation challenges so the schedule is not yet finalized. All we can say for sure at this point is that the dig and fill days will take place over some combination of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday during one (or both) of the final two weekends in March:

- Weekend 1: (Sat - Mon), 03.22 - 03.24
- Weekend 2: (Sat - Mon), 03.29 - 03.31

Please try to keep some or all of those dates open on your calendar, and as soon as we get the equipment allocation figured out we will announce the final patch party schedule through the mailing list and on the web site (<http://sirsgca.org>).

Speaking of the MAAC patching effort, those dig and fill days are your primary opportunity to earn a spot on the club's autocross bonus program allowing you to make a 4th run during each heat of our autocross events. Please note, you will need to work the equivalent of a full day in order to qualify for the bonus program. You can split that time into two half days if necessary. Also note that, since our participation in the Midwest Muscle Car Challenge in May is not guaranteed this year, the March patch parties will likely be your only opportunity to qualify for the bonus program.

The patch parties are one of the most important club events on our calendar, and I encourage everyone to participate. It's hard work, but very rewarding. The site patching has a huge impact on our ability to provide interesting courses for our autocross events.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to thank Jack Rogers for the great program at our February member meeting. Jack has participated in some great driving events including events at Pikes Peak and the Bonneville Salt Flats. Thanks, Jack, for taking time to share your videos and stories with the club!

I'll see you all in March...a lot!

Matt Beasley  
RE.2014  
E-mail: [matbeas@gmail.com](mailto:matbeas@gmail.com)  
Cell: 812.589.1189



# SIRSCCA Events Calendar

(The following dates and times are provisional. Visit the website calendar at <http://sirscqa.org/calendar> for the most up to date information.)

March			
03.08	9A	Patch Party Prep Visit	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
03.11	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
03.16	12P	Road Rally: Paul & Carolyn D.	Dairy Queen US 60 East – Owensboro, KY
03.23	TBD	Patch Party – Dig Day 1	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
03.24	TBD	Patch Party – Fill Day 1	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
03.26		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
03.30	TBD	Patch Party – Dig Day 2	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
03.31	TBD	Patch Party – Fill Day 2	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
April			
04.01	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
04.08	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
04.12	12P	Road Rally: Ben Davis "Townsquare Media"	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
04.27	TBD	Autocross: "Roberts Run-up" – Ernie Roales	Roberts Park - Evansville, IN
04.30		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
May			
05.02		Midwest Muscle Car Challenge	TBD - Putnam Park? (We will not be hosting.)
05.04	TBD	Autocross 1 of 7: Terry Davis	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
05.06	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
05.13	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
05.18	TBD	Autocross: Southern IL Autocross #1 of 2	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
05.28		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
June			
06.03	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
06.08	TBD	Autocross: Mike Buente, SS Needed #2 of 7	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
06.10	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
06.25		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
06.29	TBD	Road Rally: Jim Canon "Left 6th Opp"	TDB
July			
07.01	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
07.08	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
07.13	TBD	Autocross: Matt Beasley	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
07.27	TBD	Autocross: Kevin Smalley, SS Needed	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
07.30		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
August			
08.03	TBD	Road Rally #4 of 7	TBD
08.05	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
08.12	6:30P	Membership Meeting	The Log Inn - Warrenton, IN
08.17	TBD	Autocross #5 of 7	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
08.24	TBD	Road Rally #5 of 7	TBD
08.27		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
September			
09.02	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
09.07	TBD	Southern IL Autocross #2 of 2	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
09.09	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
09.14		Road Rally Possibility	Possible date to either move a rally to, have a gimmick rally, etc.
09.21	TBD	Autocross #6 of 7	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
09.24		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
October			
10.05	TBD	Autocross #7 of 7	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
10.07	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
10.10	TBD	Bowler Day At The Strip Setup	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
10.11	TBD	Bowler Day At The Strip Day 1	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL
10.12	TBD	Bowler Day At The Strip Day 2	Mid-America Air Center(MAAC) - Lawrenceville, IL

October continued from previous page			
10.14	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Moonlite BBQ - Owensboro, KY
10.26	TBD	Road Rally #6 of 7	TBD
10.29		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
November			
11.04	5:45P	Board Meeting (Guests Invited)	Townsquare Media - Evansville, IN
11.09	TBD	Road Rally #7 of 7	TBD
11.11	6:30P	Membership Meeting	Smitty's Italian Restaurant and Steakhouse - Evansville, IN
11.26		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission
11.29		Awards Banquet Reservation Deadline	Reservations should be sent to Mike Hutchens, Treasurer
11.30		Tentative "Black Sunday Shopping 'Brake'" Autocross	Tentative Date for a "fun" autocross at Roberts Park.
December			
12.05	6:00P	2014 Awards Banquet and Membership Meeting	Rolling Hills Country Club, Newburgh, IN
12.31		Pit Stop Deadline	Deadline for Article Submission

### 2013 Board Members

Regional Executive	Matt Beasley	812-626-0596	matbeas@gmail.com
Asst. Regional Exec	Barry Schonberger	812-425-1315	teamtiger21@aol.com
Secretary	Lora Blaylock	812-760-8693	blaylock@ieee.org
Treasurer	Mike Hutchens	812-250-6408	mike@mhutchens.com
Activity Chair	Paul Blaylock	812-484-6944	blaylock@ieee.org
Asst. Activity Chair	Michael Buente	812-479-1444	mbuente@vpsarch.com
Pit Stop/Web Editor	Ben Davis	812-204-4508	benjamindavis@live.com
Board Advisor	Bob Sonntag	812-477-5936	bob.sonntag@att.net

## Tire Planning and Our Street Tire Division

There are several changes to the SCCA autocross rules that will ripple into our autocross events and results. This article is to share that there will be changes to the classes available at SCCA autocross events this year and next.

The easiest change to grasp is that the SCCA has changed the terminology from Stock category to Street category. In addition to the name change, tires with a minimum treadwear rating of 140 are now required for cars in the Street category classes. These are the SS through HS classes. In 2015, the minimum treadwear number for these classes increases from 140 to 200.

To ease the transition to the new tire requirements, this year the SCCA also offers a Street R category. The Street R classes are essentially the SS through HS classes of 2013 and have been designated SSR through HSR. R-compound and other soft tires are permitted in these classes. In 2015 the SSR class will remain; but, the other Street R classes will be dissolved. This approach gives people a year to wear out tires they may already own and a year's notice to plan for 2015 tires.

Our Street Tire Division used to require a minimum treadwear number of 140. With 140 now the minimum treadwear number for cars in the Street category classes, the need for our Street Tire Division has become moot. Accordingly, and as announced at the February membership meeting, we have done away with our Street Tire Division.

Those that will be running in the Street and Street R category classes this year should plan subsequent tire purchases with these rules in mind. Cars not meeting the minimum treadwear rating may end up in the Street Modified or Street Prepared classes next year.

I encourage those affected by these changes to read and understand the rules regarding the treadwear requirements for this year and next.

Bob Sonntag

## **Sports Car Club of America - Southern Indiana Division - Board of Directors Minutes - February 4, 2014**

### Attendees:

Bob Sonntag, Advisor to the Board; Ben Davis, *Pit Stop*/Website; Paul Blaylock, Activities Chairman, Mike Buente, Assistant Activities Chairman; Lora Blaylock, Secretary; John Memmer, guest; Terry Davis, member (via conference call); Matt Beasley, Regional Executive (via conference call)

The meeting convened at 6:32 p.m., with a welcome to new SIR/SCCA member John Memmer. Due to the inclement weather, Terry and Matt joined the meeting via conference call. (Thanks to Ben for setting up the call.)

### Officer Reports:

The minutes were accepted as sent.

Mike Hutchens is out of town on business, but sent a report along with Ben. Of note, we have earned \$614.38 from the *Tire Rack* promotion, and cash on hand has increased \$586.40 over the last period. Question: should fundraising income be listed separately from the *Tire Rack* income? It was thought that the web hosting expense should be moved to the Web line. Thanks to Ben for sponsoring the cost of the web hosting for 2 years. Upon review, the 2013 Year-End Treasurer's report was accepted upon motion and second.

According to SCCA reports, we have 118 members in good standing with 4 non-renewals from the past 2 months. Matt is still planning to have a conversation with Kevin Smalley regarding the duties of the Membership Chair.

### Old Business:

Ben did not have an update on the trailer refurbishment plan. Another potential space for doing the work would be at Vincennes University. However, time is beginning to run short for accomplishing this task before the start of the season.

Matt is working on the charter renewal. He reported having some trouble locating all the appropriate documents. Bob will work with Matt to complete this task by March 16.

Ben reported that he is behind in his work on the new website. Eventually, there will be a link to all the old data (newsletters, etc). In the meantime, he will try to temporarily tie the old site to the new one so that the missing information is available.

Regarding new equipment, it was noted that the SCCA website is our source for the 60 new pylons. There was a question as to whether the Dornburgs have been asked to begin looking for replacement radios. It was also noted that it would be good to replace the stop watches with 'flaky' buttons.

### New Business:

Bob reported that there is no change anticipated to the per-car fees at the Mid-American Air Center; they will remain at \$5 per car. We will continue to waive weekend membership fees for Rally participants.

The idea of 'Corporate Discounts' was discussed. SIR/SCCA would 'partner' with interested companies to discount the weekend membership fee to \$5 for autocross guests that come from those companies. This would serve to 'advertise' our events to a wider audience with little cost or effort. Parameters and responsible parties would need to be defined/identified. The idea will be discussed again at the March Board meeting.

The date and location of the Midwest Muscle Car Challenge has changed: Putnam Park (outside Indianapolis) and May 2-4. This means that SIR/SCCA will be unable to staff this event. Paul Dornburg will be in touch with the appropriate SCCA region to see if they would like to take SIR/SCCA's place. Matt will report the change at the membership meeting, making sure members know that this 'regular' opportunity for earning extra autocross runs will not be available this year.

Bob reported on options and recommendations for Tire/Classing changes this year, including a survey of the membership. Although no formal action was taken, it was generally felt that making the fewest changes possible in 2014 would be the best course. It was suggested that autocross techs make note of tires that will change classes in the future, and inform the drivers of the expected changes in 2015, so they may purchase wisely. Bob will give a heads-up at the membership meeting and have information in an upcoming *Pit Stop* outlining the changes.

Paul Dornburg and John Oliver have achieved 1-year Safety Steward Instructor status. Paul Blaylock will contact Paul D about scheduling a class. More Safety Stewards are needed, as many of our current Stewards are regularly involved in setting up the autocross courses.

There is no new information at this time on the disposition of the trailers at MAAC parked near our course. Paul B will inform the early autocross marshalls that they need to take the current location of the trailers into account when planning their course, as they may still be there for the start of the season.

The schedule was discussed at length, including the possibility of adding a rally on September 14 and the Southern Illinois autocross dates. Paul B will make sure Bob has a list of the expected autocross and rally dates by the membership meeting. Bob will get the expected autocross dates to the MAAC.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

## Sports Car Club of America - Southern Indiana Division - Membership Meeting Minutes - February 11, 2014

Regional Executive Matt Beasley called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. and welcomed several visitors in addition to new member John Memmer. The minutes were accepted as printed in *Pit Stop*. Ben Davis, filling in for Mike Hutchens, reported that the club's finances are in good shape. He also reminded all that items for submission to *Pit Stop* are due on the last Wednesday of the month.

Paul Blaylock, Activities Chairman, reported that, while dates are still being finalized, the calendar of events is available on the website. He is looking for event marshalls and rally masters, particularly for events later in the year. Highlights of the upcoming schedule include a Safety Steward class on March 1 at 9:00 a.m., and the first rally (Berry points only) of the season on March 2.

Advisor to the Board Bob Sonntag (and regular rally master) reminded everyone that it's all about location (and time), location (and time), location (and time). Assistant Regional Executive Barry Schonenberger reported that longtime member Jim Barrow is recovering from an automobile accident, and that healing thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

In new business, Bob Sonntag reported on 2014/2015 tire rule changes. Changes to the club's rules have been prompted by changes at the national level. Stock class has been renamed "Street". Street R will be those running R-compound tires with a treadwear of less than 140. In 2015, the Street R class will be eliminated, with cars moving to the Open Tire division, except for SSR. In 2015, Street Touring will continue to require a treawear of less than 140. The 2014 PAX index will have specific values for Street R. Cars that don't meet the minimum requirements will be in the Street Prepared class. Please take these changes into consideration when purchasing tires in the near future. Watch for an article in *Pit Stop* for further information on tire rule changes.

*Pit Stop* and website editor Ben Davis highlighted progress on the website. Links to numerous social media sites are available, and update automatically with the site. The calendar may be subscribed to and synced with your choice of electronic calendars. The Tire Rack link may be found on the bottom of the main page. Shop Tire Rack, make your wish list, and then use the link from the SIR/SCCA website to make your purchase. Last year, the club earned \$613 from your purchases. A hearty 'good job' and 'thank you' were given to Ben for all his work on the website.

Barry Schonenberger introduced local realtor and racing enthusiast Jack Rogers for the night's program. He shared highlights of his varied racing career, including record-breaking runs at the Bonneville Salt Flats, as well as an exciting trip up Pike's Peak. Thanks to Barry and Jack for an entertaining evening!

Following a reminder of March's board and membership meetings (to which all are invited), the door prize was won by member Jim Cannon. As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

### March Membership "Anniversaries":

Jack Fares, 1 year  
Drew Gerth, 2 years  
Debbie and Leonard Goff, 2 years  
Kurt Krodel, 2 years  
Duane Duke, 3 years  
Amanda Acree, 4 years  
Caroline and Howell Fairbanks Jr., 4 years  
Lisa and Charlie Posey, 4 years  
Kim Clark, 5 years  
Karen Davis, 5 years  
Ron Jochum, 6 years  
Harold Davis, 16 years  
Thomas Betz, 36 years  
Tom Bootz, 42 years

### March Birthdays:

Amanda Acree  
Zack Anslinger  
Darlene Cannon  
Brian Dixon  
John Freeman  
Ron Jochum  
Lauren Kincaid  
Clarence Mathis  
Barry Schonberger



Some of the 2014 Solo Safety Steward "trainees" take a few minutes before the training session starts to enjoy some donuts, coffee, and a little bench racing!

## ***SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA: A club with many interests***

Many faceted in its endeavors, the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) might best be described as a service organization. It serves over 50,000 members throughout the United States by sanctioning and administering a variety of automotive related activities through more than 115 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 road rallies, autocrosses, rally crosses, 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. These avenues range from amateur or professional road race driver, to weekend rally or autocross driver, and from 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.

**Pit Stop** 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, its officials, members or advertisers. Permission to reprint material from **Pit Stop** is granted to all SCCA regional publications and its national publication, **Sports Car**, with regards for full credit to the author and Pit Stop. Hi Paul's Mom, is this winter over yet!?