

The Pit Stop

SCCA Southern Indiana Region Monthly Newsletter January 2018 Volume 65 Number 1

January REport from Dave Lehrscha

Happy New Year! I believe 2018 should be a very good year for the Southern Indiana Region. Our 2018 calendar of events is being finalized at this time. When published, you should expect to see the standard line-up of points Rally and Autocross events as well as several popular activities from 2017. We are working on reserving several two-day weekends at the MAAC in Lawrenceburg. This will give us more value for our weekend insurance fee, reduce course setup and tear down time per event, and present us opportunities to schedule Test n' Tune, SIR Ladies' Autocross, or other special events. The Test n' Tune event will provide an opportunity to fine tune suspension settings and to test different driving strategies on a timed course. The other events may provide first-time Autocross experiences to individuals and interest them in joining our organization.

Our calendar prep involves more than planning for Autocross. Interest in our Southern Indiana Region Rally program is often difficult to measure. Over the last two years we have seen events with as many as 12 Driver-Navigator teams and as few as 3 teams. The scheduling of these events may have been a factor in discouraging participation. Last year we learned that scheduling a Rally right after the SCCA Solo Nationals was a mistake. Several regular Rally participants were worn out by a week at the Nationals and the long drive back from Lincoln, Nebraska. As a result, they did not make it out to Bob Rothermel and Paul Blaylock's "Round and Around Rally." I must admit that my Nationals focus kept me from posting a Rally event reminder. Improving Rally attendance is a SIR Board of Director's priority. We will work to avoid putting too many events in a short period of time.

During our November membership meeting, we voted to create a new SIR Women's Chair BOD position. The position did not exist before this and so there were no candidates on the ballot for this position. It will become an elected position beginning with our November 2018 election of the 2019 SIR Board of Directors. This position and the open position of Advisor to the Board were filled for 2018 following our SIR By-laws during our December BOD meeting. MacKenzi Crowe, a regular Rally and Autocross participant, Patch Party worker, and last year's SIR Women's Committee Chairperson, will serve as the first Southern Indiana Region Women's Chairperson in 2018. Terry Davis, a member who has also been a regular Rally and Autocross participant, Patch Party worker, and unofficial BOD advisor, will serve as the 2018 Advisor to the SIR Board. Both members have been working hard, unofficially in these roles for some time. Please join the BOD in recognizing their past contributions and in supporting them in their new roles.

Our 2017 Awards Banquet was a very enjoyable event. Once again, Bob Sonntag managed the room and meal arrangements. The food and other arrangements were excellent. Thank you, Bob! Trophies were presented for the 2017 Rally, Autocross, Rookie, and Berry-points champions. (The finishing positions are posted on our SIR web-site). The 2017 SIR Champions were Ernie Roales for Rally, Barry Beaman for Autocross, Jeremy Crowe for Rookie, and Paul Dornburg for the Berry points. The Board presented the Ken Andrew Memorial Indian Award to MacKenzi Crowe for her extra work on a number of non-traditional SIR activities. This award is presented to the non-Board member who has done the most for the club in the past year. The Board has the flexibility to not present this award. We take this responsibility seriously. An award never given is not a suitable remembrance of Ken. However, giving the award when there is no worthy recipient only devalues the award when it is presented. MacKenzi's dedication to the SIR and to her role as the SIR Women's Committee earned her this recognition. Please be on the lookout for our 2018 Southern Indiana Region's calendar. Rally and Autocross events are still months away, but we are planning training events to be held during our winter months. Membership meetings will still be held on the second Tuesday of each month and our Board of Directors meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at Smitty's Italian Steakhouse in Evansville. We'll begin meeting informally around 6:00 PM, begin eating around 6:30, and then start the meeting at 7:30 PM (Central). We hope to see you there.

Dave Lehrscha
Regional Executive
Southern Indiana Region

**SIR SCCA
Membership Meeting
December 1, 2017
Annual Awards Banquet,
Rolling Hills Country Club**

Following a social hour and dinner, Regional Executive Dave Lehrsfall called the meeting to order. He thanked Treasurer Bob Sonntag for making the arrangements for tonight's festivities. He also expressed thanks for Terry Davis and Suellen Lehrsfall for leading the post-meeting game, as Mary Harl was unable to attend this evening.

In officer reports, Bob noted that we still have funds available. Activities Chair Paul Blaylock thanked everyone for a great year, and noted that planning for 2018 has begun. He welcomes schedule and event suggestions. Assistant Activities Chair Jr Crowe looks forward to growing the club in 2018. *Pit Stop* producer Paul Dornburg noted that all are welcome to submit articles for the newsletter, and that the deadline is December 27. MacKenzi Crowe, reporting for Women of SIR, noted that she also welcomes new ideas for 2018. Assistant Regional Executive Richard Grav wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Trophies for the final competition event of the season were presented. Bob Sonntag's "Apices and Apogees" rally had a major impact on the Berry point standings. Four teams competed, with class B winning the day. Team Lehrsfall/Dornburg had the low score of the day, which included a single-digit segment. Also awarded was a special modified trophy for Dave Lehrsfall from the Ice Cream Rally, where winners get sprinkles.

In new business, Dave reminded all that the next

membership meeting will be at Smitty's on Franklin Street on January 9th. A special award - the cone killer - was given to rookie member Jeremy Crowe for the most cones hit in one year. Service pins were received by Jr Crowe and Sue Roales, 5 years; Gene Young, 20 years; Jim Cannon, 25 years; Terry Davis, 45 years.

The Rookie trophy is given to the new member with the highest ratio (points available vs. joining date) of Berry points. Out of the 14 eligible, congratulations and the trophy were awarded to Jeremy Crowe. Overall, rallies were well attended this year, creating a close race for the Rally trophy. In third place, Terry Davis; second, Bob Sonntag; leaving Ernie Roales the 2017 Rally champion. The Autocross competition kept Paul Blaylock on his toes this year, checking and re-checking the point standings. In the end, third place went to second-year autocrosser Shawn Lansdale; second place, Don Kelley; first place, Barry Beaman. The Berry points competition is always a close race, and this year was no exception. In third place, Bob Sonntag; second place, Ernie Roales; and in first place, (only 20 years in the making!) Paul Dornburg. Congratulations to all the competition award winners.

The Ken Andrew Memorial Indian award is given to a club member not currently serving on the board who has done the most for the club over the year. The board has the option to not present this award if they feel there is not an outstanding recipient in a particular year. However, this year, the board had an easy decision, and is pleased to present the award to MacKenzi Crowe.

Your 2017 Board, who has been re-elected to serve in

2018, received their service plaques. Dave reviewed the 2017 highlights: patch parties were well-supported; the club is successfully pursuing new Ladies' activities, including the first ladies-only autocross; our annual instructional courses were well received; nine drivers represented the region at the 2017 Solo Nationals; non-competition events included fun events such as a visit to the Dream Museum and Painting with a Twist; we updated the club's Bylaws and website; a new position - Women's Chairperson - was added to the board. In 2018, we hope to improve attendance at Rally events overall, and work to find a better date for the TMMI autocross that will encourage more participation. Dave thanked everyone for a great 2017, and looks forward with the rest of the board members in having a wonderful 2018. As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned to play 'the game'.

**SIR SCCA
Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2017
Lehrsfall Home**

Present: Dave Lehrsfall, Regional Executive; Richard Grav; Assistant Regional Executive; Paul Blaylock, Activities Chair; Jr Crowe, Assistant Activities Chair; Bob Sonntag, Treasurer; Lora Blaylock, Secretary; Paul Dornburg, *Pit Stop*; MacKenzi Crowe, Women of SIR; Terry Davis, Carolyn Dornburg, Stacy Grav, and Suellen Lehrsfall, guests.

Following a delicious dinner and lively fellowship, Regional Executive Dave called the meeting to order, jumping straight to Old Business on the agenda, so that open board positions could be filled. Terry Davis was nominated to fill the

Advisor to the Board position. The motion was seconded and approved. MacKenzi Crowe was nominated to fill the Women's Chairperson position. This motion was also seconded and approved.

With that business completed, the group received officer reports. Treasurer Bob noted the club has ample funds, and shared a breakdown of the year's financial highlights. Activities Chair PaulB noted that there are a few items to clean up with trophies following the awards banquet, and will get that process underway this week. He also noted that a new supply of event trophies is on order, with blue coloring instead of orange. He requested that ideas for the 2018 calendar be sent his way. Assistant Activities Chair Jr thanked the Lehrschilds for hosting the evening, a sentiment seconded by all. New board member MacKenzi expressed her surprise and deep appreciation for being given the Indian award. Assistant RE Richard noted he is following up on suggestions for improving the website, including creating a 'getting started' page for those new to Rallies and Autocross. Paul Dornburg reminded everyone that the *Pit Stop* deadline is the Wednesday following Christmas. He and Bob will update the Bylaws, so Dave can complete the annual filing tasks.

The board reviewed the November 26 autocross. Everything went very smoothly. Doing tech 'in grid' worked really well, as did the plan for assigning numbers. One area for improvement is the sharing/shifting of loaner helmets

- perhaps some explanation can be added to the upcoming 'getting started' page on the website. There were 8 or 9 passengers at the event, and 2 new memberships were received that day.

The Crowes asked about Kart standards. There are a growing number of families in the club who have or soon will have children of Kart age. The rules are slightly different from cars, although both can run on the same course (although not at the same time). Dave asked the Crowes to look into what SIR would need to do to offer Karting, including a list of potential participants.

Ideas and needs for the 2018 Calendar were discussed. PaulB welcomes all suggestions, and notes that he will begin with a basic update from the 2017 calendar. He noted that he has been asked about holding more rallies vs autocrosses during warmer months - i.e., do the rallies in the hottest weather (where one can use the a/c), leaving autocrosses for not-as-hot times (there was not a great deal of enthusiasm about this). The board discussed having a too-full schedule, leading to burnout. PaulB will keep this in mind as he works on the new schedule.

It was noted that there were a number of negative comments on social media about the cost of participating as a non-member in competition events (specifically for the Ladies' and Fun autocrosses). These seem to have come largely from people who are completely new to motorsport events. The board decided to discuss fees in

January, following publication of national fees for 2018. One idea would be to add the 'pay to play' enhancement to autocross, as has been used in the rally program for the past few years (enter 2 events in a row, see a reduced fee the 2nd time).

Other items in new business discussions included an invitation from Dave to bring 2018 goals to the January board meeting. He would like to present them at the January membership meeting. Also at the January membership meeting, a new Bylaw committee needs to be appointed. Dave and Richard volunteered to fix the lights on the club trailer (thanks!). Paul Dornburg will share the Policies and Procedures document for review. It was noted that Paul Dornburg has been taking care of membership committee duties, and appreciation was expressed. MacKenzi shared two fundraiser ideas for the club from Dawn Sturgeon: making and selling vinyl numbers for cars, and selling t-shirts with the 2018 competition calendar on the back. Dave noted that he has prepared a letter to give to Smitty's requesting our regular meeting space for 2018 except August and December.

Dave reminded all that the group will meet next at Ciholas (thanks to PaulB and the Ciholas folks) on January 2, and the full membership will meet at Smitty's on January 9. As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Karts at French Lick, stay tuned for date!

2018 Board Members

Regional Executive	Dave Lehrschaal	812-664-9782	re@sirscca.org
Assistant Regional Executive	Richard Grav	812-396-8768	assistantre@sirscca.org
Secretary	Lora Blaylock	812-760-8693	secretary@sirscca.org
Activity Chair	Paul Blaylock	812-567-3428	events@sirscca.org
Assistant Activity Chair	Jonathan 'Jr.' Crowe	270-315-5336	tech@sirscca.org
Women's Chair	MacKenzi Crowe	812-719-8764	women@sirscca.org
Treasurer	Bob Sonntag	812-477-5936	treasurer@sirscca.org
Pit Stop Editor	Paul Dornburg	270-314-9069	pitstop@sirscca.org
Advisor	Terry Davis	812-453-1376	advisor@sirscca.org



Regional Executive: Dave Lehrschaal is now in his 3rd term as our regional executive. Dave's been an SCCA member for 13 years and joined our region in November of 2012. Dave likes to autocross his Mustang and has gone to the last 2 Solo Nationals. In 2017 he finished 19th in autocross points when he ran 5 of the 7 events but in event 6, just after the Solo Nationals, he had a best finish of second just one tenth from being fastest on indexed time. It was the highpoint of his autocross season. He also rallies and had a pretty good record in 2017 winning 2 of the 3 rallies he entered and 10th in rally points.



Assistant Regional Executive: Richard Grav is a relatively new SIR member joining the club in June of 2013. Now in his 5th year with the club he is beginning his 3rd year as Assistant RE. Richard's an autocross enthusiast campaigning a Pontiac Solstice in FP until this year's Solo Nationals when the turbo broke and rendered his car uncompetitive. He and his co-driver, Jonathan Crowe, changed classes and drove MacKenzi Crowe's pink Miata in E Street where they waged a personal battle to see who was quickest. Richard won that contest by just .024 of a second. After returning home from the Nationals Richard bought his wife Stacey a new Miata. He then drove it to a couple of good finishes in the last 2 autocrosses. He finished 6th in the Autocross points.



Treasurer: Bob Sonntag is a long time SCCA member, 37 years, most of which are with SIR although he did spend a few years in the southwest when his job changed. He's been a board member for a long time holding most of the positions available over the years. He's won the club's Berry Trophy many, many time as well as the Autocross and Rally trophies many times. His favorite SCCA activity is rallying. He enjoys putting them on as well as competing. This year he finished 2nd in the Rally points, 3rd in Berry points and 37th in Autocross points after only competing in 2 events because of a mid-season car failure.



Secretary: Lora Blaylock has been an SCCA member since May of 2010 and a Board member since 2014. She diligently transcribes the often hard to follow discussions into a meaningful "minutes" documents you see in each Pit Stop. Although not competing in any events she was a valuable assistant in her husband's rally and the Rothermel "Round ad Around" rally in September. She starts her 5th year on the Board.



Activity Chairman: Paul Blaylock has been with the club almost 8 years after joining in May of 2010. Paul doesn't compete a lot with only occasional visits to an autocross and a rally here and there. In 2016 he did put on the first rally and assist with the September rally. Paul's responsible for putting together the club's schedule of events and keeping track of all the points you earn. Paul also got his employer, Ciholas Inc., to provide us with a Board meeting place each month. Paul is starting his 5th year as activity chairman.



Assistant Activity Chairman: Jonathan Crowe, also known as Jr., is starting his 3rd year on the Board. He joined the SCCA in August of 2012 and was persuaded to join the board in 2016. His primary interest is autocross and he's been to the last 2 Solo Nationals. Jr. finished 5th in the 2016 autocross points and was fastest of all in the last event of the season where he drove a borrowed car to the top of the list. He also rallies competing in 5 of the 7 this year and winning 2 of them.



Women's Chair: MacKenzi Payne-Crowe is the newest addition to the Board in a position that is brand new. She is our first Women's Chair. MacKenzi joined the SCCA in September of 2013 and had been active with the club ever since. Last year she became the Women's committee chairman and put together events for the women of our region which included a very successful Ladies Autocross. While attending her first Solo Nationals she participated in a Women's luncheon at the event. We're sure she will be a valuable addition to the Board.



Advisor to the Board: Terry Davis is the new Advisor to the Board. Terry has been with the club since November of 1972. He brings valuable insight regarding past practices and events. He has attended every Board meeting even though he wasn't a Board member. Terry has won every award the club gives out in rally, autocross and participation including a 3rd in Rally points and a 4th in Berry points in 2017. The Board is always happy to have Terry around.



Newsletter editor: Paul Dornburg has been on the Board every year except 2014 since 2000. Paul joined the SCCA in 1996 and it took 4 years for Ken Andrew to talk him into joining the Board. Paul starts his 9th year as the newsletter editor. He also has a 5-year stint as Regional Executive 2006 to 2010. Paul's favorite club activity is autocrossing where he's been the autocross points champion a few times. He also has a Rally championship somewhere in the 20+ years he's been with the club. What he didn't have until 2017 was the Berry points trophy. He and Ernie Roales waged a battle at the end of the year to see who would be the champ. A decisive victory in the last rally of the year gave Paul the points he needed to garner his first Berry points championship.

January Member Birthdays

Kristine Ferguson	1/5
Tatsuo Noda	1/5
Wilson Welch	1/6
Gene Young	1/7
Darion Vowels	1/10
Richard Hall	1/13
MacKenzi Crowe	1/15
Dave Lehrsfall	1/16
Greg Collins	1/16
Alice Goebel	1/17
Kristin Parker	1/17
Mike Buente	1/25
Terry Davis	1/26
Dennis Elliot	1/30

January Member Anniversaries

Dennis Elliot	1/1/71
Jan Bootz	1/1/74
Wilson Welch	1/12/12
Leonard Goff	1/7/15
Stacey Grav	1/13/15
Breeze Grav	1/13/15
Josh Johnson	1/15/16



The 2017 Board and their Service Plaques

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

SCCA: 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. The avenues available range from amateur or professional road race driver to weekend rally or autocross 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.

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Upcoming Events – All Times Central

Tuesday, January 2nd, Board Meeting, 5:45 PM, Ciholas, Newburgh, IN

Tuesday, January 9th, Membership meeting, Smitty's Italian Steakhouse, Franklin Street, Evansville, IN
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm dining and car chatter, 7:30 pm club business meeting

Karts at French Lick, stay tuned for date!