



# The Pit Stop!



SCCA Southern Indiana Region Monthly Newsletter April 2016 Volume 63 Number 4

April REport from Dave Lehrschall

I'm really excited about our April calendar! Planning and preparation activities have stepped up in anticipation of busy Southern Indiana Region Rally and Autocross seasons. A lot has already been completed during the "off season." We had very well attended March classes for Rally and Autocross basics as well as Solo Safety Steward training. Jay Wolf and Richard Grav led a very impressive refurbishing of the SIR timing and scoring trailer. It's more than freshly painted. The trailer includes wiring and storage improvements that will protect our wiring connections and more. Other preparation activities continue.

Jay and Richard also worked with Bob Sonntag and I on the MAAC repair recon activity recently. Those of you, who have worked extensively with concrete may not get as excited about our MAAC repair plans as I have. Part of this is because I'm looking forward to the bonus (Autocross) runs through the season that my participation in the repairs will earn me. However, most of it comes from my anticipation of working with skilled SIR members to convert the rough spots that develop to really good racing surfaces. We marked approximately 90 repair areas this year with only a few that we would consider large. Our recon team focus was on the repair of areas we've driven over in the last year and areas that caused us to narrow our course setups. We also marked a few areas that will add to course design options.

All this fun doesn't happen without coordination and support. Bob Sonntag has stepped up, once again, to lead the recon activity and to coordinate the actual MAAC repairs. The support effort will come from you, our SIR members interested in those bonus runs and in supporting our Autocross program. Two important work days will occur before our April 12<sup>th</sup>, membership meeting. Cut Day will be on Saturday, April 9, and the first Dig Day will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We'll follow with the second Dig Day on April 17<sup>th</sup> and Fill Day on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Planning is on-going so please send Bob Sonntag an e-mail to let him know which work days you'll be supporting.

Not all of our preparation work has been focused on Autocross. Our first points Rally is just days away on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Recently, I've been learning to appreciate the work that goes into setting up these Rallies. My wife, Suellyn, has been working on a Rally plan for months. She'll put this Rally on during the first weekend in June. Since I've already run the route six times with her and will run it a few more times, I'll be supporting rather than competing in her Rally. I am anxiously anticipating it and our 2016 Rally season!

Dave Lehrschall  
SIR Regional Executive

## 2016 Bonus Program Changes (reminder)

### Autocross Bonus Program Changes:

Last May, the board made changes to the Autocross Bonus Program in hopes of encouraging more people to participate in more work events. Here's how it goes:

1 worked day will earn 1 at-cost entry to an event (a savings of approximately \$17).

2 worked days will unlock the Autocross Bonus Program Achievement! (Giving an extra scored run in each autocross heat for the year).

3 or more worked days will earn both an at-cost entry and participation in the bonus program.

As in previous years, 'reconnaissance' and 'cut' days do not count as workdays.

Mark your calendars! April's patch party dates are our only scheduled workdays:

April 10, 17, and 18 (25 Alternate) at Mid-American Air Center: Lawrenceville-Vincennes International Airport

### 2016 Board Members

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## **SIRSCCA**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

March 1, 2016

Present: Richard Grav, Assistant Regional Executive; Paul Blaylock, Activities Chair; Jr Crowe, Assistant Activities Chair; Bob Sonntag, Treasurer, Lora Blalock, Secretary; Paul Dornburg, *Pit Stop*; Matt Beasley, Advisor to the Board, Terry Davis, Stacy Grav, guests.

The meeting was called to order, and Paul Blaylock was thanked for hosting the meeting at his workplace, Ciholas. In officer reports, Bob reported that the club is operating in the black and has no outstanding bills. Paul Dornburg was contacted by John Oliver for the Western Kentucky (soon-to-be) Region. We will lose 23 members to the new region, leaving SIR's membership number at 90.

Jr reported that he has been in touch with Larry's Automotive in Newburgh about sharing information about SIR activities. They are interested in working with the club. In addition, Jr will pass along information about Larry's being an authorized RideTech dealer to Paul Dornburg so he can share it with the club. Jr has also been in touch with a local radio DJ, but has not heard back from decision makers on their end.

Richard and Stacy reported that they are working on business cards to promote the club - basic club contact info on one side, event dates on the reverse. They will be available soon. Jr will check out the media resources available on the SCCA website, and work on a flyer.

Saturday's classes are ready to go - both Solo Safety Steward and Autocross. Thanks to Paul and Dave for educating us!

Details of the proposed TMMI autocross were confirmed with Terry, the club's contact with TMMI/Scott Milam. Following discussion, it was agreed to ask for a fee of \$1,250 plus \$10 per car for the event, with a limit of 50 entrants. The date would be Saturday, September 17, meeting at 8:00 central at MAAC. This would allow SIR to expect to make some money on the event after costs. If the TMMI entrants want to participate on Sunday, their cost would be \$10. Paul Dornburg plans to set up the course on Friday, and welcomes help offered by Richard and others.

Paul Blaylock reported that he has several Event Marshalls lined up for Autocrosses, but is lacking Rally Masters. Bob and Terry volunteered to lead the way with the Rally on April 3. (Thanks!)

Bob reported that we are still awaiting FAA approval for the autocross dates. However, he did receive a letter from the MAAC asking us to update their name on the insurance paperwork to include the name Lawrenceville-Vincennes International Airport. Terry will update.

It was noted that the supply of award pens is running low. Following discussion, it was agreed to have Bob purchase ball-point/highlighter pens from Tri-State Trophies.

The board discussed a question about running a Kart at Autocross events. According to SCCA guidelines, the kart/driver has to have all safety equipment and pass inspection. In addition, a Junior Solo Safety Steward must be available. Paul Dornburg will follow up with Gene Young and Chris Moore regarding kart specifics and Safety Steward availability. The Board does not see a great problem with allowing karts as long as all regulations can be followed.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

## **SIRSCCA**

### **Membership Minutes**

March 8, 2016

Assistant Regional Executive Richard Grav called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone, noting that Regional Executive Dave Lehrschall is feeling under the weather tonight.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed to dispense with the calling of the roll and the reading of the minutes. Treasurer Bob Sonntag reported the club is still operating in the black, and has no outstanding bills. Activities Chair Paul Blaylock reported that the club has enjoyed a set of excellent classes which will be detailed later.

In Old Business, Jay Wolf noted that there is still a little work to finish on the trailer. Discussion followed about whether there would be time to finish this when people are together at the MAAC for 'survey day' on March 20. Jay and Richard Grav will focus on the trailer while others make the survey of places to be repaired.

In New Business, Paul Blaylock detailed upcoming events. The first points Rally will be on April 3, with Bob Sonntag and Terry Davis officiating. It will start at the Hardee's on North US 41, and promises new experiences! Many events are still awaiting Rally Masters and Autocross Event Marshalls - check the club calendar, your calendar, and get in touch with Paul Blaylock to earn your first place points for leading the event!

The club will complete its annual repair work at the Mid-American Air Center in Lawrenceville, starting with a 'survey day' on March 20. Cut Day is Saturday, April 9, Dig Days are Sundays April 10 and 17, and Fill day is Monday, April 18. Remember, that 2 or more days of work are required to be in the bonus run program.

Ben Davis has been working on the website, as problems with the host service caused errors in the site. If SIR events are not popping up in your electronic calendar, you may need to go to the SIR website and re-subscribe.

Bob reported that his Rally class on February 20 was well received, with 12 participants. Everyone enjoyed the 'rally town' exercise pages in the class portion. Perhaps they could be made available on the website for practice? The practice rally portion of the class was updated from last year due to construction in the downtown area. Thanks, Bob!

This month's Solo Safety Steward and Autocross Classes were well attended, particularly the Autocross class, where nearly 20 people attended, including several from the local Porsche club. Many thanks to Paul Dornburg and Dave Lehrschall for teaching us!

Congratulations to Jim Cannon upon his new job! He will be driving the Optima Batteries truck to races all around the country and talking 'cars' to race folks. Nice work if you can get it!

Jim Cannon reported on his visit to the new Bennett Motors Dream Car museum on Diamond Avenue. There are many exhibits to see, from automotive history to race cars to famous cars from the entertainment world. Paul Blaylock will look into setting up a group tour for the club.

The door prize was won by Jim Cannon, after which, it was moved, seconded, and agreed to adjourn.

2016 SIR/SCCA Schedule			
<b>April</b>			
4.03	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (1 of 7)	Hardees on 41N Evansville
4.05	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	Ciholas
4.09	9:30 AM	Patch Party -- Cutting Day	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
4.10	9:30 AM	Patch Party -- Dig It	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
4.12	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
4.17	9:30 AM	Patch Party -- Dig It	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
4.18	9:00 AM	Patch Party -- Fill 'em	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
4.25	9:00 AM	Patch Party -- Fill It (Rain Date)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
4.27	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>May</b>			
5.01	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (2 of 7)	TBD
5.03	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
5.10	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
5.22	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (1 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
5.25	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>June</b>			
6.05	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (3 of 7)	TBD
6.07	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
6.14	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
6.26	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (2 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
6.29	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>July</b>			
7.05	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
7.10	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (3 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
7.12	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
7.24	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (4 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
7.27	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>August</b>			
8.02	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
8.07	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (4 of 7) -- "Ice Cream Rally"	DQ on KY144, Owensboro KY
8.09	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting follows)	Log Inn, Warrenton
8.28	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (5 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
8.31	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>September</b>			
9.06	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
9.11	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (5 of 7)	TBD
9.13	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
9.17	8:00 AM	TMMI Autocross	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
9.18	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (6 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
9.28	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>October</b>			
10.02	9:30 AM	Pt Autocross (7 of 7)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
10.04	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
10.09	Sunday	Autocross (extra day in case of a rainout)	Mid-American Air Center, Lawrenceville
10.11	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
10.23	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (6 of 7)	TBD
10.26	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
<b>November</b>			
11.01	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
11.06	12:30 PM	Pt Rally (7 of 7)	TBD
11.08	6:30 PM	Membership Meeting (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30)	Smitty's Italian Steakhouse
11.23	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline (early because of Awards Banquet)	Articles, results, points, minutes due.
11.25		Awards Banquet Reservations Are Due!	Respond to treasurer@sirscga.org
11.27	TBD	Fun Autocross	Future Roberts Park location, EVV
<b>December</b>			
12.02	6:30 PM	Awards Banquet & Holiday Party	Rolling Hills County Club, Newburgh, IN
12.06	5:45 PM	Board Meeting (guests welcome)	TBD
12.30	Wed	Pit Stop Deadline	Articles, results, points, minutes due.

All Mid America Air Center autocross dates are awaiting Illinois FAA approval

## **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.

**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 Mom!

Patch Party Work Days at Mid America Air Center, Lawrenceville, IL  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Cut Day  
Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Dig Day I  
Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Dig Day II  
Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Fill Day

### **Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Be sure to join us at our monthly membership meetings.

Unless otherwise noted they are held at Smitty's Italian Steakhouse Restaurant, 2109 W. Franklin St., Evansville, IN 47712

Dinner is at 6:00 PM followed by the business meeting at 7:30 PM.