

The Write Line

The official newsletter of the Salina Region, SCCA



ASSORTED NUTS FROM ROCKET J. SQUIRREL

Recent discussions on e-mail autocross lists bring home how fortunate we are here in Salina Region to have the East Crawford Recreation Area site. In fact, it could probably be fairly said that without ECRA there would not be a Salina Region.

First, it's free. I've heard high 3-figure numbers being asked to rent the primo site in Kansas City, Arrowhead Stadium, and Kansas Region is reeling from a four-figure asking price to use the solo pad at Heartland Park Topeka.

Meanwhile, the City of Salina charges us nothing to use ECRA, which once was the municipal airport and now is a city park. Moreover, when Salina's Parks & Recreation Department instituted a reservation fee a couple of years ago, Salina Region was immediately exempted from that fee. The fee was a result of another (non-automotive) user leaving a huge mess behind. Our habit of leaving the place better than we found it -- anyone who ever picked up a piece of trash shares credit for this -- has branded us as good neighbors and welcome users.

Recently there was also an informal questionnaire from the SCCA national office asking if any regions were being required to have an ambulance on-site for their events. Ambulance on-site? Such overreaction is surely based on ignorance of what we do.

However, it can never be said that trying to do something as fast as possible in an automobile is totally risk-free, and for that reason regions should have some kind of emergency response plan in place. Again, fortunately for us, ours is incredibly simple. A 911 call will bring an ambulance and EMT from a firehouse at Crawford and Marymount. That's just two miles away on fast roads (Crawford, then Markley) without so much as a stop sign to impede its travel.

All this and great concrete too. And flush toilets. And sometimes a concession stand. It's good to be an autocrosser in Salina Region.

--Rocky Entriken

Revised First Gear Program Announced!

Great news for SCCA members under 25! The First Gear Program for young SCCA members has been revised. If you are 24 years old and younger, you can join SCCA for \$45.00. Further...and this is the really good part...you are now eligible for a competition license without converting to a Regular membership!

If you are already a member but meet the new age guideline, you can convert back to a First Gear Membership! Call Sandy Entriken, Salina Region Membership Chair for more details! 785-827-5143 or sandy@spitfire4.com.

Online Registration Now Available!

Beginning with the March 17-18 Solo Event, Salina Region now has online registration available. Registrations will be accepted beginning 10 days before and continue until 10pm the Friday before an event. Simply go to salinascca.org and click on Event Pre-Registration to find the form. Confirmations will be returned via email.

Looking Ahead...

March 17&18

Test & Tune/Solo/FSAE Challenge
East Crawford Recreation Area

April 4

Business Meeting
Jim's Chicken, Salina, 7pm

April 21 & 22

Twin Solo
East Crawford Recreation Area

April 21, 22 & 23

Evolution School
East Crawford Recreation Area

Pre-Registration Required
Contact Rocky @ 785-827-5143
or rocky@spitfire4.com

Current Information Phone

785-452-9711



The Write Line is the newsletter of the Salina Region of the Sports Car Club of America, Inc. Address correspondence to 2731 Scott Avenue, Salina, KS 67401. Opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the individual authors and do not express official policy of the Salina Region or of SCCA, Inc. Permission to reprint material from The Write Line is hereby granted to all SCCA affiliated regional and national publications, provided that credit is given the author and The Write Line.

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Salina Region 2007 Schedule

Mar 17-18	Test & Tune/Solo/FSAE Challenge
April 4	Business Meeting, 7pm, Jim's Chicken
April 21-22-23	Twin Solo/Evolution School
May 13	Solo
July 1	Solo
July 22	Solo
Aug 26	Solo
Sept 16	Solo
Oct 7	Solo
Oct 28	Solo
Nov 11	Solo

k All events at the East Crawford Recreation Area, Salina, KS **I**

MiDiv SoloChampionship

June 2-3	Wichita Region @ Salina E. Crawford Rec. Area
June 23-24	Kansas City Region @Arrowhead
Aug 4-5	Kansas Region @ Heartland Park Topeka
Sept 1-2	Arkansas Region @ Walnut Ridge

Special Solo Events

Sept 22-23	Pro Solo Finale – Heartland Park Topeka
Sept 25-28	Solo Nationals – Heartland Park Topeka

Business Meeting 03-07-07

The meeting was called to order by R.E., Dennis Smith, at 7:29p.m. Present were Jared Adamson, Rocky and Sandy Entriiken, Abner Perney, Steve and Teresa Pistora, Dave and Jo Richards, Dennis and Nancy Smith and Barry and Annell Stockinger. The February minutes were presented/approved. The Treasurer's report was presented/approved. **Old Business:** Bills for the banquet and awards were given to Teresa. Rocky reported that we need licensed youth stewards beginning this year and recommended Teresa and Steve Pistora. The forms were completed. Youths age 15 and under driving karts must be SCCA members to participate, however that requirement can be waived for their first event. Rocky discussed the Evolution School and gave Teresa the money and gift certificates he's received to date. He reported that he has 11 students for Phase I, 14 for Phase II and 9 for the Challenge. Rocky summarized the Evo School contract. A motion to authorize the signing of the contract was passed. Sandy reported that she has received a number of pre-registrations for our March event. Rocky has been in contact with our sister regions regarding the support for the schools involved with FSAE programs. Wichita Region is donating cash and free entry at any event for three drivers for WSU. Kansas Region never gave out specifics, but they will support KU. Rocky suggests that Salina Region donate cash to KSU and offer free entry to three drivers from all three schools. A motion was made to exclude the SAE Challenge weekend and to have it begin with the April Regional event, which was approved. **New Business:** Dave Richards reported that the fire extinguisher has been serviced. He recommended we look at possibly purchasing new batteries. Abner will make the exchange at Exide. Barry reported that weather prevented Bill Dayton from attending the banquet and we were not charged for his meals. Barry recommended refunding him. Because of job commitment, Barry won't be at the March event to tech cars.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Smith, Secretary

Deadline for submissions for the April issue of *The Write Line* is April 6, 2007. Send your contributions to 2731 Scott Avenue, Salina, KS 67401, or to sandy@spitfire4.com.

The Salina Region Solo Championship ~ 2007

1. Points will be scored at all of Salina Region's Regional Solo events. Points also will be scored at the SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Championship Series events held in Salina, plus the SCCA Solo Nationals in Topeka. (NOTE: for 2007 that is 11 local events, one Salina Divisional, and the Nationals, total 13 events.)

2. Points will be scored for every driver at each Salina Region event using the GCR model – 12-9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 for the top nine drivers. Then, any driver placing 10th or lower will also receive one point.

3. Points will be compiled at year-end only for Salina Region members. Drivers eligible for the Salina Region Solo Championships must be Salina Region members (Region of Record or Associate) by the end of September.

4. To encourage participation in the SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Championship Series events at Salina, as well as the SCCA Solo Nationals, those events will score regular points as in Item 1 above, plus competitors will score up to 10 points for every car they beat. For example, if you place 15th at Nationals (1 point) in a 28-car class, you can score a total of 11; if you place 4th (6 points) in a 5-car class, you can score a total of 7 points.

5. Of the possible 13 events that can be scored in 2007, the best nine will be counted. A driver must score points in at least four local Salina Region events. (NOTE: the throw-out total and the minimum total are both calculated by taking the total Divisional+National events included in the series plus two Regional events.)

6. One car makes a class.

7. A driver may compete only once for points at any event. Second-entry runs will not count for points and will not take positions away.

8. A driver competing in more than one class during the year will score points in each class separately.

9. Drivers competing in three or more classes through the year will be considered for the "Wild Car-d" awards.

Wild Car-d award winners cannot be an award winner in any other class.

10. Ties for awards will be broken first by going to the driver who scores the most wins; second to the driver who beats the other the most in head-to-head competition. If still tied, it will stand and duplicate awards will be given.

Salina Region Banquet ~ Award Winners

And a great time was had by all, mostly through the efforts of Barry and Annell Stockinger, who did a marvelous job putting the gala together this year at Martinelli's Restaurant in downtown Salina.

Year-at-a-Glance awards denoting trophy finishes at all 2006 Salina Region events were passed out, as were championship awards -- large D-cell Mag Lites laser-engraved with the winners' names for the class champions, smaller pocket Mag Lites for the runners-up.

The Region's top awards went to:

Bob Lambert – Driver of the Year/Champion of Champions

Dan Bergman — Rookie of the Year

Mark Hill — Newcomer of the Year

Alan Reed — Most Improved

Barry Stockinger — Worker of the Year

Teresa Pistora — Racer of the Year

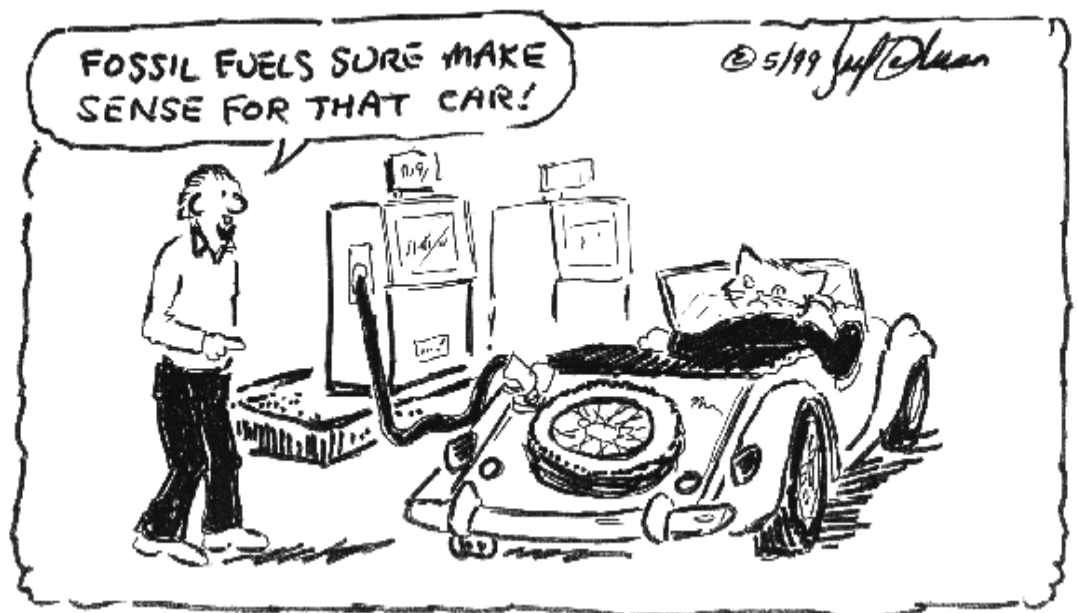
Also presented were three awards for drivers in Midwest Division SCCA Divisional Competition.

In the SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series, **Rocky Entriken** won the G Prepared championship, **Joe Silva** was 2nd in the STX class.

Rocky Entriken also won a road racing title, receiving the wall clock presented to the G Production champion in the Midwest Division's Mid-Am Championship.

The ADVENTURES of RAYMOND the CAT

By Joe DeLuca



Just Idling Around

"I don't have a fancy car, but I drive like Steve McQueen" - Jason Ryberg.

That's called an epigraph, or so a writer told me. Often the inspiration from another author to cause one to write. In this case, I hope, inspiration for us all, since this is the month that motorsports start in Middle America.

But first - things held over. James Hylton done darned good for an old geezer in the Daytona 500 Qualifier. Worked his way up to 8th with 8 laps to go. Didn't see how it happened but apparently got squeezed out of the primary draft and then fell back to 23rd, where he finished ahead of Kyle Petty.

The 5 door Hatchback Parade continues. The SX-4 went to Coldwater and was promptly replaced with a Caliber. It features styling that is slowly growing on me, but still has too low windows. The rear seats fold flat and flush, which is a good thing, but still not as good as the flip-flop-outs of a PT or the flip-flop-verticalizers of a Honda Fit. The CVT seems better connected than others I have driven, and the handling is reasonably sporty. Haven't gone far enough to get a mileage check.

Spotted the new Jeep Patriot and must say that it is my favorite variant of the Caliber series - taller windows, more rear storage. Looks like all three (Jeep Compass being the other) have some of the same dashboard and other interior pieces. Will be interesting to see how they sell, since in many places they are all offered in the same dealership. It's also interesting to note how similar in concept, if not in size, is the Dodge Nitro, which is a variant of the new Jeep Liberty. How far can DCX carry this self competition thing? Is that part of their fiscal trouble?

In the Professional Car Company Auto Show Teaser Category, this year's winner is the Dodge Demon. Slickest little sports car proposal since the Solstice and more manly. I'm sure it would sell, even from a Dodge/Chrysler/Jeep store.

It's not often that people take a 3 day road trip on behalf of a sewing machine, but I'm easy. As you may know, Abner's Autos is probably the only used car dealership co-located with a quilting service. I have been grouching about the noise emanating from the sewing machine for several months. I've been telling the quilteress that it was sounding worse than the TR-4 just before third gear departed, or even after. So, we loaded the Gammill into the back of the Caliber and headed to its maker, which is in West Plains, MO. It was a scenic drive in the country, with a stop to visit the Beaumont Hotel and Café, home of the world famous \$100.00 hamburger, which actually only costs \$5.95. It's quaint, and it features views of Kansas' most controversial wind farm, cranking out the electrons with zero fuel consumption. Which persuades me almost to the purchase of a Xebra electric Pickup.

The Caliber performed well on this journey, and finally got 30.4 mpg, and was fine but for the evil tire noise. The Gammill cost more than the Caliber, but is not capable of hauling passengers. It does have a service policy that would be darned nice for a car company to adopt. The head technical man for the outfit worked it over from 8:20 until nearly noon, assisted by the ace electronics guru. They replaced the motor, several electrical connectors, lubed it thoroughly, programmed and adjusted things, until it ran like a brand new sewing machine and returned it to the back of the Caliber, for only \$8.00! Seems there is no service charge for the life of the machine, except for brand new parts that are not rebuildable!

So, we proceeded to Lee's Summit, MO where there is a fine wholesale car Auction and I bought Kathrynne a 3rd Hyundai Sonata. If you just want a nice solid late model 4 door sedan, that's the best one for the money.

Darn, I still haven't gotten around to any Sports Car driving. Well, my annual tech for the SSC / GS / STS / FSP Protégé is scheduled for next weekend, as is the first Solo event, I'll be there. Hope you're somewhere.

Jason Ryberg is a poet from Salina, currently living and writing in Lawrence, Kansas. The quote is from a piece entitled "Warrior Poet Seeks Sexy Swamp-Witch" from his book Devils, Dice and Car Parts available from Mean and Evil House, Inc. 305 E. 19th, Lawrence, KS, 66046. See zapcar.com for the Xebra Pickup.

--Abner, still aspiring to drive like Stirling Moss, Perney