

# The Write Line

The official newsletter of the Salina Region, SCCA



Another month has passed and the Evolution School had an excellent turn out, as well as the two-day autocross event. Jared put together a good course for Saturday and then had us run it in the opposite direction on Sunday. Sunday's course actually flowed better for my car. It's strange how that works with basically the same course both days. I let Rocky Entriiken drive our car on Sunday and of course he beat my times. I hate it when that happens, but he was gracious enough to run in a different class.

At our May meeting we decided to have a workday on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Dave and Jo Richards house to make some window repairs on the trailer. One is badly rotted and the other may need some attention too. Anyone wanting to help is welcome to come. All the info is elsewhere in this newsletter as far as the time, address, directions, etc. We always appreciate any help that makes our events possible. Some of our volunteers are behind the scenes and we don't want to forget to thank them. Dave and Jo Richards store the trailer, charge batteries, deliver the trailer to and from the site. Steve Pistora maintains our timers and wiring. Sandy Entriiken wears many hats besides taking care of membership and the newsletter. These folks and all the officers and members keep our club going.

Prior to the May meeting there was discussion about the difficulty Wichita Region is having in regards to autocross sites. Our site has been, and probably will continue to be looked at for development of some kind. Let's show our gratitude to the City of Salina for allowing us to use this area by taking care of and respecting our site, as well as respecting our neighbors.

Until next month....have fun playing cars!

Dennis Smith, R. E.

## Trailer Party!

This Saturday (May 12), beginning at 2 pm.

Place: Dave & Jo Richards' home in New Cambria (Didja know Jo is Mayor of New Cambria?)

It's a gathering of Salina Region members to clean out and repair our equipment trailer. It's a social event, really, with beer and pop provided along with pizza later in the afternoon. We especially invite our newer and younger members to come, get to know us and our other.

Bring your own lawn chairs and (if) (bug repellent, just in case). More people = duck work = more beer time.

Directions: New Cambria is on Old US 40 about five miles east of Salina. When you get there, cross the tracks, turn onto First Street and go to Center Street. The Richardses live at 300 First Street on the southeast corner.

Please RSVP to Jo Richards at 785-823-1118 or Sandy Entriiken at 785-827-5143.

## Looking Ahead...

**May 13**

Solo

East Crawford Recreation Area, Salina

Pre-Register at [www.salinascca.com](http://www.salinascca.com) until 10pm May 11

**June 2-3**

MiDiv Divisional Solo

Pre-registration Required [www.midivsolo.org](http://www.midivsolo.org)

East Crawford Recreation Area, Salina

More information inside this issue

Hosted by Wichita Region

**June 6**

Business Meeting

Jim's Country Style Chicken, 7pm

Salina

**July 1**

Solo

East Crawford Recreation Area, Salina

Pre-Register at [www.salinascca.com](http://www.salinascca.com) June 21-29

## 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.

## Officers – 2007

### Regional Exec.

Dennis Smith  
785-243-4148  
smnck@kansas.net

### Assistant R.E.

Jared Adamson  
785-825-7704  
team\_catastrophe@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Nancy Smith  
785-243-4148  
smnck@kansas.net

### Past R.E.

Steve Pistora  
785-227-8805  
sccapistora@sbcglobal.net

### Treasurer & Webmaster

Teresa Pistora  
785-227-8805  
sccapistora@sbcglobal.net

### Solo Chair

Jared Adamson  
785-825-7704  
team\_catastrophe@yahoo.com

### Newsletter & Membership

Sandy Entriiken  
785-827-5143  
sandy@spitfire4.com

## Salina Region 2007 Schedule

May 13	Solo
June 6	Business Meeting, Jim's Chicken, 7pm
July 1	Solo
July 22	Solo
Aug 26	Solo
Sept 16	Solo
Oct 7	Octoberfast 18
Oct 27-28	Mirror Khana XXXI
Nov 11	Solo

↳ All events at the East Crawford Recreation Area, Salina, KS 1

### 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 05-02-07

The meeting was called to order by R.E. Dennis Smith at 7:34p.m. Present were Jared Adamson, Bill Dayton, Rocky and Sandy Entriiken, Abner Perney, Steve Pistora, Dave and Jo Richards, Dennis and Nancy Smith and Barry Stockinger. The April minutes were presented and approved. No Treasurer's report was available. Sandy turned in April's event money for Steve to deliver to Teresa. **Old Business:** Rocky reported on the Evolution School. There were a total of 55 students. All of the expenses are not in yet, however Rocky projects a good profit. He turned in the expense receipts he has. The gift certificates created a problem because they were not issued for a set dollar amount. Evolution agreed to split the difference with us. The problem should be corrected by this time next year. **New Business:** Barry announced that the Thunderbird and Cougar Club of America is scheduled to participate in our July 1st event. Rocky reported that he read in the paper that new ball fields are proposed for the South end of the East Crawford Recreation Area. Abner reported that this is also a potential site for an elementary school. Each of these proposals poses a potential threat to our site. Dennis reported on the damage to the trailer window doors and suggests we have a workday to repair that. Discussion also included cleaning and organizing the trailer. It was decided to meet at Dave and Jo Richards' house on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Dennis has materials and Dave offered the use of his tools, etc. Dinner/beverages will be provided for all volunteers. Bring your lawn chairs, bug spray and table service. Rocky asked if we are going to continue to charge a \$20 entry fee for our 2007 events. The decision was to leave the \$20 entry fee as is. This led to discussion of Mirror Khana entry fees. After some discussion, it was decided to table a decision until costs could be explored. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Smith, Secretary

Deadline for submissions for the June issue of *The Write Line* is June 8, 2007. Send your contributions to 2731 Scott Avenue, Salina, KS 67401, or to sandy@spitfire4.com.

# Divisional Championship ~ *Right here in Salina!*

June 2-3. Sign up now! Go to [myautoevents.com](http://myautoevents.com), type "midiv" in the Quick Search window and it will take you to information and registration for this event. Entry fee is \$60.

## Fun!

Why? Well the obvious reason is it's fun! It is a two-day autocross on a larger scale than most local events. You'll go up against some of MiDiv's best and have a great time doing it.

This is Event #1 of four events in the 2007 R&S Racing & Solo Performance MiDiv Solo Series, hosted by the Wichita Region SCCA with help from Salina Region SCCA. It's not really a co-sanction or joint event, Wichita is very much in charge. Simply stated, they have the expertise, we have the great site. We also help by providing our equipment and a few key people -- our own Joe Silva is designing the course, said to be "big-car friendly." Event chair is Wichita's Brian Meyer.

For those unfamiliar with a Divisional solo event, it's a two-day event where your best time from Saturday is added to your best time from Sunday and the total time is what determines your finish position in your class. So you might be behind on Saturday but you have a chance to make up that difference on Sunday and move up a position or even take the lead!

Along with two days of competition you'll also be treated to a banquet on Saturday evening which will include door prizes and

other entertainment. The banquet will be at the Holiday Inn which is also the event hotel this year. Rooms have been blocked at a discount rate of \$79/night until May 18th (be sure to tell them you're with the SCCA).

## New!

Another new thing for this year is there will be a Street Open class for anything with fenders running on DOT 140 tires. (same as Salina Region's STO class). This is for anyone who wants to run in a class and not worry about getting beat just because they don't have "R" compound tires and don't fit in the STS or STS2 class. SO offers anyone a chance to experience a Divisional-level event without needing the killer car.

Other reasons to run the event:

1. It is a qualifying event for the Solo Nationals in September which brings in about 1200 cars from all over the country and so close and handy to us it'd be a shame to miss it.

2. It's the first of four events in the SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series. You need only run two of them to qualify for the series but can count your best three -- the others are in Kansas City, Topeka, and Arkansas. More info at [www.midivsolo.org](http://www.midivsolo.org).

3. Support Salina and Wichita Regions. A lot of time and effort and resource goes into putting on a major solo like this. It also counts for Salina Region points with a bonus point for each car you beat.

4. And, of course, IT'S FUN!!!

## THE TEN BEST TOOLS OF ALL TIME

Forget the Snap-On Tools truck; it's never there when you need it. Besides, there are only 10 things in this world you need to fix any car, any place, any time.

**1. Duct Tape:** Not just a tool, a veritable Swiss Army knife in stickum and plastic. It's safety wire, body material, radiator hose, upholstery, insulation, tow rope, and more in one easy-to-carry package. Sure, there's a prejudice surrounding duct tape in concourse competitions, but in the real world everything from LeMans-winning Porsches to Atlas rockets uses it by the yard. The only thing that can get you out of more scrapes is a quarter and a phone booth.

**2. Vise-Grips:** Equally adept as a wrench, hammer, pliers, baling wire twister, breaker-off of frozen bolts, and wiggle-it-till-it-falls off tool. The heavy artillery of your toolbox, Vise Grips are the only tool designed expressly to fix things screwed up beyond repair.

**3. Spray Lubricants:** A considerably cheaper alternative to new doors, alternators, and other squeaky items. Slicker than pig phlegm. Repeated soakings of WD-40 will allow the main hull bolts of the Andrea Doria to be removed by hand. Strangely enough, an integral part of these sprays is the infamous little red tube that flies out of the nozzle if you look at it cross-eyed, one of the ten worst tools of all time.

**4. Margarine Tubs With Clear Lids:** If you spend all your time under the hood looking for a frendle pin that caromed off the peedle valve when you knocked both off the air cleaner, it's because you eat butter. Real mechanics consume pounds of tasteless vegetable oil replicas, just so they can use the empty tubs for parts containers afterward. (Some, of course, chuck the butter-colored goo altogether or use it to repack wheel bearings.) Unlike air cleaners and radiator lips, margarine tubs aren't connected by a time/space wormhole to the Parallel Universe of Lost Frendle Pins.

**5. Big Rock At The Side Of The Road:** Block up a tire. Smack corroded battery terminals. Pound out a dent. Bop nosy know-it-all types on the noodle. Scientists have yet to develop a hammer that packs the raw banging power of granite or limestone. This is the only tool with which a "made in India" emblem is not synonymous with the user's maiming.

**6. Plastic Zip Ties:** After 20 years of lashing down stray hoses and wired with old bread ties, some genius brought a slightly slicked up version to the auto parts market. Fifteen zip ties can transform a hulking mass of amateur-quality rewiring from a working model of the Brazilian rain forest into something remotely resembling a wiring harness. Of course, it works both ways. When buying used cars, subtract \$100 for each zip tie under the hood.

**7. Ridiculously Large Standard Screwdriver With Lifetime Guarantee:** Let's admit it. There's nothing better for prying, chiseling, lifting, breaking, splitting, or mutilating than a huge flat-bladed screwdriver, particularly when wielded with gusto and a big hammer. This is also the tool of choice for oil filters so insanely located they can only be removed by driving a stake in one side and out the other. If you break the screwdriver -- and you will, just like Dad or your shop teacher said -- who cares? It's guaranteed.

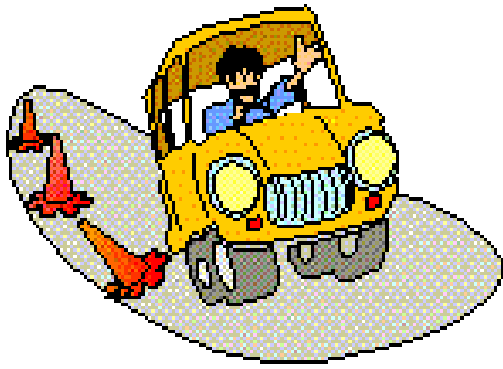
**8. Baling Wire:** Commonly known as MG muffler brackets, baling wire holds anything too hot for tape or ties. It's not recommended for concourse contenders since it works so well you'll never replace it with the right thing again. Baling wire is a sentimental favorite in some circles, particularly with the MG, Triumph, and flathead Ford set.

**9. Bonking Stick:** This monstrous tuning fork with devilishly pointy ends is technically known as a tie-rod-end separator, but how often do you separate tie-ends? Once every decade, if you're lucky. Other than

medieval combat, its real use is the all purpose application of undue force, not unlike that of the huge flat-bladed screwdriver. Nature doesn't know the bent metal panel or frozen exhaust pipe that can stand up to a good bonking stick. (Can also be used to separate tie-rod ends in a pinch, of course, but does a lousy job of it).

**10. A Quarter and a Phone Booth:** (See #1 above.)





## Events elsewhere

Here is a calendar of Solo II events by the Wichita, Kansas, Kansas City, Nebraska, NeOkla and Oklahoma Regions of SCCA, and the Crown Autocross Club in Kansas City. Go see how other clubs do it!

ALWAYS CONFIRM THE EVENT BEFORE MAKING A LONG TRIP!

(\* = Salina Region event on this date)

- May 20..... Oklahoma @ Remington Park  
 ..... Wichita @ Wichita Greyhound Park  
 ..... Crown @ Arrowhead Stadium
- May 27..... Kansas City @ Arrowhead Stadium  
 ..... Nebraska @ Lincoln Air Park, Lincoln
- Jun 3 ..... Crown @ Arrowhead Stadium
- Jun 9-10 .... Kansas @ Heartland Park Topeka (double)
- Jun 10 ..... Nebraska @ Southwest High School, Lincoln  
 ..... Oklahoma @ Remington Park  
 ..... Wichita @ Strother Field, Winfield  
 ..... Crown @ Arrowhead Stadium
- Jun 17 ..... Kansas City @ Arrowhead Stadium
- Jun 24 ..... Nebraska @ Lincoln Air Park, Lincoln  
 ..... Wichita @ Raytheon
- Jul 1.....\* . Crown @ Arrowhead Stadium
- Jul 8 ..... Kansas @ Heartland Park Topeka  
 ..... Nebraska @ North Star High School, Lincoln  
 ..... Oklahoma @ OSU-Oklahoma City
- Jul 15 ..... Kansas City @ Arrowhead Stadium  
 ..... Nebraska @ Southwest High School, Lincoln  
 ..... Wichita @ Wichita Greyhound Park
- Jul 29 ..... Wichita @ Strother Field, Winfield
- Aug 12..... Nebraska @ Lancaster Co. Event Center, Lincoln  
 ..... Wichita @ Wichita Greyhound Park
- Aug 19..... Kansas City @ Arrowhead Stadium  
 ..... Oklahoma @ OSU-Oklahoma City
- Aug 26....\* . NeOkla @ Tulsa Fairgrounds  
 ..... Crown @ Arrowhead Stadium
- Sept 2..... Crown @ Arrowhead Stadium
- Sept 9..... Nebraska @ Lancaster Co. Event Center, Lincoln  
 ..... Oklahoma @ OSU-Oklahoma City  
 ..... Wichita @ Raytheon
- Sept 16....\* . NeOkla @ Tulsa Fairgrounds
- Sept 30..... Nebraska @ Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs  
 ..... Wichita @ Strother Field, Winfield (Endurocross)

## The Parade Lap

This is a space that will be a bulletin board for our members. If you have any tidbits or announcements that you would like to see in this space, please send them to *The Write Line*, 2731 Scott Avenue, Salina, KS 67401, or e-mail to [sandy@spitfire4.com](mailto:sandy@spitfire4.com).

The Salina Region wishes to express its sincerest condolences to members **Dave & Jo Richards**, New Cambria, in the passing of Dave's father, G.K. "Rich" Richards on April 17.

The Salina Region also wishes to send sincere condolences to members **Rob & Barb Pickrell**, Salina, in the passing of Rob's father, Robert M. "Bob" Pickrell on May 3.

## *The SCCA Merchandise Collection*

<http://www.sccacollection.com/>

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*On-line Registration is now available for Salina Region events! Go to [www.salinascca.org](http://www.salinascca.org) for more information.*

# Just Idling Around

*"Never slow down, you'll never grow old"-Tom Petty, several years back.*

*"If you don't run, you'll rust"- Tom Petty, 2006.  
Lyrics drivers should believe in.*

*Driving again for fun and adrenaline is a good Spring thing. Played at Heartland Park's Wednesday evening PDE on April 18<sup>th</sup>. They are starting earlier, so that even with three groups, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced, we got 4 -15 minute sessions, for \$60.00. That's still about the best bargain for track time anywhere, especially on a 10 turn 2.1 mile road course. In the Advanced group, I had the lowest powered car, with the Protégé MP3. The next lowest power cars were Subaru WRX's, plus the group ranged up to an RX-8, a couple new ZO6 Vettes, a Camaro, and a 350Z. So, my primary concern was not to hold up the fast guys.*

*Running on new Dunlop Direzza tires, we (A little NASCAR here - before you know it I'll be throwing in Spanish - or Yiddish or something) did pretty well in the corners. We managed to complete a couple sessions only being caught and passed by half the other drivers. I consider that a success. No spins, no car-to-car contact, followed by ribs and fixing's at World Famous (In SCCA's World anyway) Pat's Pig in Pauline. Pretty much a perfect day in Kansas.*

*In the mean time, I've adopted the Hybrid Escape for my daily "work" (nudge-nudge-giggle Abner? Work?) vehicle. I must say it performs as advertised, and is delivering the best city mileage of any vehicle I've had since the Prius Hybrid. The system is more seamless than ever, the CVT/electric motor/2.3 liter gas 4 cylinder all meld into smooth transportation. Pretty impressive.*

*The big test was a mountain road trip to Durango Colorado. (There's that Spanish, already)*

*In case you don't have your road atlas at hand, or a detailed memory of US geography, let me remind you that it's a long drive to Durango from here in Middle America. First day out we went to Adam's place in Lakewood - West Denver. Rain, Wind, Freezing Rain, Wind, Snow, Rain, more Wind! A lovely day on the Great American Desert. I-25 was closed, as were all the other major highways going to Colorado Springs. The adversity pulled the Hybrid down to 27.8mpg.*

*The next day going west on US 285 was Christmas card perfect with over 20 inches of snow, but clear roads. That was really fun. Even though it's seriously up hill most of the way, the Hybrid was up to 30 mpg by Fairplay. From there it's a pleasant cruise across South Park, not quite the TV show, with few people, not enough to cause any traffic, and Deer,*

*Antelope and Cattle all peacefully grazing in the same open range.*

*After Ponca Pass, it's downhill across the San Luis Valley on a 200mph road, if only you had a 200mph car. Straight, smooth, black asphalt with dazzling snow all around. Have to be careful to hold even the Hybrid under 80. Did not see any of the fabled San Luis Black Helicopters nor UFO's, but I was careful anyway.*

*After a tour of Saguache, and lunch in Del Norte, Wolf Creek Pass turned out to be an easy drive, no more snow and a huge leap in the mpg coasting down the west side. By Durango, the average mpg was 34.4 on the computer, and 34 even in the old fashioned division of the miles by the gallons! Darned nice to drive a machine that works as advertised. After a couple days of eating, drinking, shopping, walking by the river, listening to a two and a half hour pitch for a time-share, - your basic senior tourism, it was time to drive to Ouray for more of the same, plus a test of the Low Range in the CVT.*

*I must say the power train is the most impressive job of engineering I've had the pleasure to experience in a reasonably priced vehicle. In Low a spooky electronic presence takes over. While coasting downhill, select low, use the brakes to bring it down to 30 mph, then just steer. The CVT changes ratios to hold that speed on just gravity, revving as high as 5500 rpms, until you hit the brakes again, and call for a slower speed or touch the accelerator to speed up, in which case the gear ratio goes up, the engine speed goes down and the car automatically keeps adjusting to hold the new selected speed! Holy Helpful Poltergeists, Batman!*

*It works so well, that the mpg indicator was soon over 40 mpg. The drive back to Lakewood, including all the in and around Durango was a solid 36mpg.*

*I expected to see some exotic vehicles on this trip but there were nearly none. A nice 65 or so 2-door Suburban, and a Triumph Stag west of Pagosa Springs were about it. The return to Salina was uneventful, just windy. We also brought Captain Adam's WRX back for sort of-storage while he's back on active duty in the Marine Corps Reserves. Surprisingly, the Hybrid outdid the WRX even at 77 or so mph cruising, at 28.3 mpg vs. the 27.8mpg Fabulous Fuji on \$3.12 Premium, no less!*

*Ford, FREE ADVICE: Put this drive train in the Fusion/Milano/MXZ, and offer a Ranchero and maybe also a Hybrid Mazda 6, 3, and 5, and CX-7.*

*Make some mileage, save the planet, and sell some cars!*

*Mother's Day Solo is coming up. Do I go out and try to win G Stock for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the Protégé, or switch to the WRX and go for D Stock on Adam's brand new Yokohama Summer tires - that he's only driven around the block?*

*Agonies of indecision like this keep coming up every day.*

*--Abner, still aspiring to write like Tom McCahill (anyone remember him?) and drive like Stirling Moss, Perney.*