

The Write Line

~ January-February 2016 ~



Suzanne Scott-Holmes, BSL Subaru WRX STI (Lizzie Enlow-Brown Photo)

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

Regional Executive Views

Happy 2016 everyone. I'm Monte Rans and if you have not heard, I am the newly elected Regional Executive for Salina Region. You may be wondering who am I and how I ever got to be Salina's RE. Well, let me give you a brief history on how I arrived in this prestigious position.

My motorsports adventures started back on the farm in Indiana where the only competition available to us farm boys was the occasional tractor pull at the local county fairs or other nearby festivals. After numerous attempts we, dad and I, were able to experience the thrill of victory. But as life would have it high school ended and college awaited. Of course, like most college students, life after school seemed like owing everyone and their brother money so all my motorsport activity was put on hold.

After a stint at International Harvester I found myself at a lawn and garden company, Wheel Horse – currently owned by Toro – where I went from working on BIG red tractors to LITTLE red tractors. As luck would have it I met a person who was sponsored by Wheel Horse that competed on the national-level garden tractor pulling circuit.

Since Wheel Horse was back in Indiana not too far from where I grew up, there were several hometown people I knew that also pulled with a local club. They talked me into building a competition tractor. Since money was short, and by this time I now had a wife and four kids, I built my first tractor with old test parts collected from the throw-away bin in the test lab.

With help from several friends I was able to build a competition tractor. For four years I would load the family in the van and load the tractor on a trailer and we would visit the local fairs and festivals and enjoy the fair cuisine and pulling competition.

Unfortunately Toro decided to move Wheel Horse to Minnesota so I found myself looking for a different job (I preferred summer sports over winter ones), so off to Ohio we went.

The good news was I found a local Wheel Horse dealer and tractor pulling club there as well, with rules very similar to what my tractor was built for. I was back in business. The bad news was they changed the rules making my tractor no longer legal to run. It became a hassle trying to compete in Ohio as well as Indiana and turned out to be more than I cared to do.

The four years we lived in Indiana we lived right next door to a small grass runway where they flew ultra-light airplanes known as powered parachutes. These are motorized carts with a large ram air chute similar to the ones skydivers use but twice as big. This always looked like an extremely fun activity but I never had the funding to fly so I decided to liquidate my pulling tractor and components and invest in a powered parachute kit (build it yourself type) and try something different.

After a few months of careful construction my new aircraft was ready to take flight and I was able to experience the biggest rush of my life, leaving the ground for the first time and wondering if I had done everything "per the specs." Everything worked correctly and I spent several exhilarating hours cruising around the county observing the countryside from a different perspective.

My next move brought me to Kansas where the average wind speed was way too much for my flying machine so I had to say goodbye to it and look for a more suitable way to spend my time. By this time it was just my wife and I at home and while browsing a local Chevy dealership we found our first Corvette, something I had always wanted but could never swing. Now I had a production built competition car but what to do with it?

I was working with a fellow engineer, Bill Preheim, and he introduced me to the sport of autocross. After a ride in the infamous "Spridget," I thought, "I can do this," and out came the Corvette. My first event did not go

(Continued to Page 4)

Salina Region Awards Banquet

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2016

Fajitas Mexican Restaurant
213 N. Rock ~ Minneapolis, Ks.
Social 6 p.m. ~ Dinner 6:30 p.m.

See information on flyer inside ~ RSVP by Feb. 15

Next Business Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 20
4:30 p.m.

**Fajitas Mexican
Restaurant
Minneapolis, Ks.**

*Business meetings
are open to all
members and guests*



Board Members ~ 2016

- **Regional Executive**
MONTE RANS
620-327-2711
monter@embarqmail.com
- **Assistant R.E. / Webmaster**
Development Committee Chair
RADLEE BIEN
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radleebien@gmail.com
- **Secretary**
SUZANNE SCOTT-HOLMES
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- **Treasurer**
CONNIE PREHEIM
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- **Past R.E.**
BILL PREHEIM
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- **Solo Chair**
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smnck@att.net
- **Member At Large**
Chief Registrar
NANCY SMITH
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- **Member At Large**
Newsletter and Membership
ROCKY ENTRIEN
785-827-5143
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- **Member At Large**
Chief of Tech
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- **Member At Large**
Asst. Equipment Manager
KEN KENNEDY
785-643-2225
kennethkennedy@cox.net
- **Member At Large**
Social Media / Facebook
ARTT MANN
785-565-3155
racermann@gmail.com

Salina Region Schedule ~ 2016

All at East Crawford Recreation Area unless noted elsewhere

<u>Event</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Feb 20 – Awards Banquet	Dennis Smith
	Fajitas Mexican Restaurant, Minneapolis, Ks.
March 19 – Test & Tune	
March 20 – Solo	
April 15-17 – Evolution Schools	Rocky Entriaken
(Friday-Phase 1 ~ Saturday-Phase 2 ~ Sunday-Challenge School)	
April 16-17 – Twin Solos	
May 15 – Solo	
June 5 – Solo	
July 10 – Solo	
Aug 7 – Solo	
Sep 11 – Solo	
Oct 2 – Octoberfast 27	Salina Region Board
Nov 6 – Solo	

Some dates
tentative

If you would like to chair a 2016 event, contact Solo Chair Dennis Smith

MiDiv



SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series - 2016

Apr 30-May 1 — Heartland Park Topeka
June 25-26 — Neosho, Mo.
July 30-31 — Lincoln, Neb.

SCCA 2016 Solo Nationals ~ Sep. 7-10 ~ Lincoln. Neb.

MEETING MINUTES

(Approved at Jan. 9 Salina Region board meeting)

December 6, 2015

The Salina Region SCCA Dec. 6, 2015, meeting was called to order by Assistant R.E. Monte Rans at 3:03 p.m. at Big John's Brewing Co., Salina, KS. Board members present were Rocky Entriaken, Dennis Smith, Monte Rans, Abner Perney, Artt Mann, and Ken Kennedy. Guests were Clint Holmes and Sandy Entriaken.

The Nov. 1, 2015, minutes were presented and approved unanimously. Motion to approve by Dennis, seconded by Artt.

The treasurer's report was presented and approved unanimously. Motion to approve by Rocky, seconded by Artt.

Old Business - Helmets - Nine new helmets have been purchased. The club's four (4) existing 2000 series helmets are certified for use through the 2016 racing season. Previously all 2000 series helmets were to expire at the conclusion of the 2015 season but a one-year extension, through 2016, was approved by SCCA.

Awards Banquet - The banquet will be held Feb. 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Fajitas Mexican Restaurant, Minneapolis, KS. The February board meeting will precede the meeting and begin at 4:30 p.m. Banquet reservations will be sent to banquet chair Dennis Smith.

A committee was appointed by Asst. R.E. Rans to select the 2015 special award recipients. These awards along with solo final standing awards will be presented at the banquet.

MiDiv Convention - The 2016 convention is scheduled for Jan. 29-31, 2016, at the Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS. Additional information and reservation details may be found at www.midiv.org.

Motion by Rocky, second by Abner to authorize Salina Region SCCA to pay the registration and motel room costs for the R.E. or voting designee to attend the 2016 convention. Motion passed 6-0.

Solo Safety Steward Class - Dennis reported that there will be a safety steward class offered at the MiDiv Convention in Topeka. The class will **(Continued to Pg. 3)**

MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from Pg. 2) be offered at no cost. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact Dennis Smith for both registration and possible car pool information.

Race Trailer Service - Motion by Dennis, second by Rocky to authorize Ken to purchase a solar charging system for the race trailer. The system will be used at the event thus eliminating the need to charge batteries prior to each event. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business - 2016 Solo Schedule - Dennis is finalizing the 2016 racing schedule and worker assignments. The schedule will be printed in *The Write Line* when it is finalized.

Tech Protocol - Stickers will be acquired and used for helmet and vehicle inspections. The helmet stickers will aid the tech individuals in quick determination of the helmet date. Vehicle inspections, in some cases, will be converted to an annual comprehensive inspection with a certified inspection sticker utilized. Subsequent inspections will be for loose objects and other types of obvious safety concerns. More details of the procedure will be explained the first time each competitor's vehicle is inspected. An official tech lane will be established at the northwest corner of the event area and all cars will need to proceed to the tech lane for appropriate inspections. The lane will be identified for ease of location.

Region of Record - Rocky reminded board that all officers must have Salina as their region of record.

Passenger Height Requirements - One of the new SCCA Solo rules requires passengers to be at least 57" tall (4' 9"). Ken will make appropriate markings on the race trailer door to be utilized to check height when necessary.

PAX Scoring - Rocky offered to add PAX scoring to the results published following each Solo event. The board enthusiastically accepted this offer.

Other - Recycling of Trash - Discussion was held regarding this suggestion. Further consideration will be given at the first event.

Next meetings - Jan. 9, 2016, noon at Martinelli's, Salina; Feb. 20, 2016, 4:30 p.m., Fajitas Mexican Restaurant, Minneapolis, KS. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Ken Kennedy, secretary

MEETING MINUTES

(Subject to correction and approval at the next Salina Region board meeting)

January 9, 2016

The Salina Region SCCA Jan. 9, 2016, meeting was called to order by R.E. Bill Preheim at 12:13 p.m. at Martinelli's Little Italy, Salina, KS. Board members present were Rocky Entriiken, Dennis Smith, Monte Rans, Abner Perney, Artt Mann, Bill and Connie Preheim, and Ken Kennedy. Guests were Chris Rans and Sandy Entriiken.

The Dec. 6, 2015, minutes were presented and approved unanimously. Motion to approve by Connie, seconded by Artt. The treasurer's report was presented and approved unanimously. Motion to approve by Ken, seconded by Artt.

Officer Election - The 2016 office election results were certified. Monte Rans elected Regional Executive, Radlee Bien elected Assistant R.E. and Suzanne Scott-Holmes elected Secretary. Bill Preheim will serve on the board as Past R.E.

Board Appointments - In addition to the officers above, the Treasurer and Solo Chair are designated as board members in the region's By-Laws. Connie Preheim and Dennis Smith were appointed to continue in those posts respectively.

The board then appointed by unanimous vote the addition of the following At-Large board members: Chief Registrar Nancy Smith; Chief of Tech Clint Holmes; Equipment Manager (Trailer Wrangler) Abner Perney; Asst. Equipment Manager Ken Kennedy; Newsletter and Membership Rocky Entriiken; and At-Large member Artt Mann.

Old Business - Awards Banquet - The banquet will be Feb. 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Fajitas Mexican Restaurant, Minneapolis, KS. The February board meeting will precede the banquet at 4:30 p.m. The banquet reservations will be sent in the near future by banquet chair Dennis Smith and will be included in the next newsletter.

MiDiv Convention - The 2016 Midwest Division SCCA convention is scheduled for Jan. 29-31, 2016, at the Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS. Additional information and reservation details may be found at www.midivsc.ca.org.

Solo Safety Steward Class - Dennis reported that there will be a safety steward class offered at the MiDiv Convention in Topeka. The class will be on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 9:00 a.m. The class will be offered at no cost. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact Dennis Smith for both registration and possible car pool information.

2016 Schedule - Rocky, Dennis and Monte reviewed the tentative 2016 Salina Region Solo Schedule. The schedule will be finalized in the near future.

Stickers - Ken reported that he has the 2016 helmet and vehicle inspection stickers ordered and they will arrive within a week. The board authorized Rocky to order 1,000 replacement Salina Regina SCCA stickers. Motion to approve Bill, seconded by Artt, motion passed unanimously.

New Business - Jr. Kart Authorization Form - Monte will review the required form to register the Jr. Kart events and Dennis will finalize it and send it to SCCA.

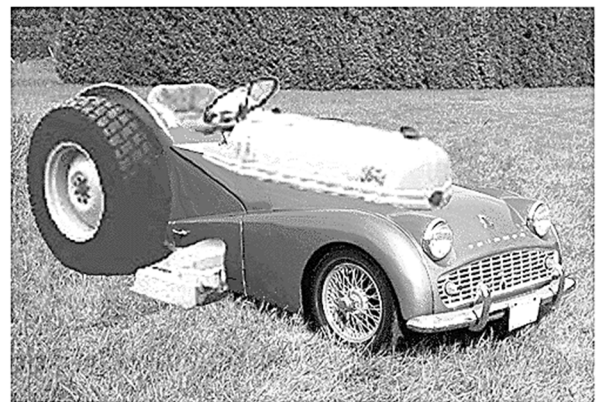
MiDiv Convention, Proxy Vote - Monte designated Rocky as his proxy to vote on behalf of the Salina Region SCCA if R.E. is not present to vote.

Next meeting - Feb. 20, 2016, 4:30 p.m., Fajitas Mexican Restaurant, Minneapolis, KS.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Ken Kennedy, secretary

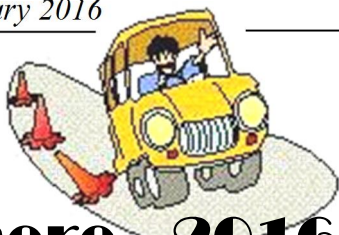
Utterly Obscure British Car Humour



If the engine fits, wear it.

(A Triumph TR3B tractor!)

Events Elsewhere - 2016



A calendar of Solo and RallyX events by the Wichita, Kansas, Kansas City, Nebraska, NeOkla and Oklahoma Regions of SCCA. Go see how others do it!

ALWAYS CONFIRM THE EVENT BEFORE MAKING A LONG TRIP!

(* = Salina Region event on this date)

AUTOCROSS

Mar 13..... Wichita @ Yoder (Test & Tune)
 Apr 2..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence (Test & Tune)
 Apr 3..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence
 Wichita @ Yoder
 Apr 16-17 ... KC/Kansas @ Heartland Park Topeka
 Apr 30..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence (Solo School)
 May 1..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence
 Wichita @ Yoder
 May 22..... Wichita @ Yoder
 Jun 5..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence
 Jun 19..... Wichita @ Yoder
 Jul 3..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence
 Jul 9-10.... KC/Kansas @ Heartland Park Topeka
 Jul 17..... Wichita @ Yoder
 Jul 23..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence (Solo School)
 Jul 31..... KC @ Cricket Amphitheater, Bonner Springs
 Wichita @ Yoder
 Aug 21..... Wichita @ Yoder (Enduro)
 Aug 28..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence
 Sep 18..... Wichita @ Yoder
 Sep 25..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence
 Oct 9..... Wichita @ Yoder
 Oct 23..... Wichita @ Yoder
 Oct 30..... KC @ Blue Rvr Prec Dr Cntr, Independence/Halloweenie
 Nov 13..... Wichita @ Yoder

RALLYCROSS

TBA

Go Racing!



Five road course tracks are within a 3½-hour drive of Salina. Be part of the action as a race worker – flagging on corners, timing, grid, tech, etc. Or driver?

- Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, Okla.
- Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, Ks
- Heartland Park Topeka, Ks.
- Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, Neb.
- Raceway Park of the Midlands, Pacific Jct. Iowa

Apr 9-10..... Majors @ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit
 Jun 4-5..... Mid-Am @ Raceway Park o/t Midlands
 Jul 30-31..... Mid-Am @ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit

REVS (Continued from Page 1)

anywhere close to what I expected. Actually I am not sure what I expected but at the end of the day I had been outrun by a Yaris!!!! How humiliating, but it could have been worse; the Yaris could have been driven by a girl!

Needless to say, I did not let that first experience deter me from the sport. For those of you that have known me for any length of time you will remember the Phrog (a silver FSP Renault GTA) that I drove for three seasons which I purchased from SCCA member Greg Laws in Wellington. I was having a good time with the Phrog but, wanting to get into a street tire class, I sold it to another fellow employee and autocrosser and found my current Honda CRX to run in the Street Touring Sport class.

I have had a great time competing with the Salina and Wichita clubs and have met several great people. There is always someone around to lend you a hand, give advice, do some good old bench racing or whatever you may need. So bring those cars out and let's have a great 2016 season

—Monte Rans, RE



Five tips to becoming a top-level autocrosser

FROM MAZDAMOTORSPORTS.COM

We turned to Rachel Kerswill, 2014-2015 SCCA Solo National Champion, to guide those interested in becoming an autocross champion. This guideline outlines five key considerations when making your plan.

• **Know Your Car:** You will need to know whether your car is competition ready. Know maintenance or repairs need to be done before you head off to competition. You need a reliable vehicle that is operating at its best to take the win. Make a timeline to get basic maintenance and repairs done in advance of major

competitions. Do basic maintenance before every major event. Change your fluids; ensure your brakes are in good condition; and keep it clean and competition ready. Make a checklist. If you are making upgrades or changes, be sure to leave plenty of time to do it and test your new setup, preferably at a local event. Leave extra time to deal with unexpected maintenance issues that will likely arise.

• **Know the Racing Organizations that Offer Autocross Opportunities:** Look at event schedules online [and in this newsletter –Ed.] of nearby Sports Car Club of America regions and the National Tour schedule to determine in which events you will be able to compete, considering schedule and budget. Also, find out what you can about the sites/courses you plan to compete at (e.g., Are you driving on asphalt or concrete?). Different surfaces have different grip. Knowing what you are working with in advance can help you pick the best tires and setup for that surface and your car. Also, plan to compete in as many events regionally as affordable to gain seat time (practice).

• **Know Your Class Options:** The class you compete in will depend on the type of car you drive and the changes you make to the car. Know the rules related to what class you plan to compete in – rules about what kind of equipment and tires you can use can change from year to year, so keep your knowledge current. Know how many competitors will be in your class at the events you plan to attend. This can affect everything from how much contingency will be offered to what your chances of winning are. A bigger class means a better chance of

receiving full contingency payouts if you win (which are fantastic if you drive a Mazda); it also offers a chance to learn and grow, with potentially much stiffer competition.

Also, Get to know your competitors: If you have a chance to meet and compete with others who will be in your class at Nationals, do it. Know who you are up against so you can prepare yourself, but more importantly, take the opportunity to make friends with fellow competitors. They may be able to offer helpful advice and support, and you may be able to help them, too. A big part of solo is the community, so always be ready to help and contribute to your fellow

competitors. This is one of, if not the, best parts of competing in autocross. One of my biggest sources of help and encouragement are the other competitors in my class.

• **Know Your Budget:** Budget is a big limitation for many; knowing how much you will have to work with is important; know what your travel expenses will be far in advance; plan for entry fees, travel expenses such as gas, lodging, and food. Nationals can be expensive, and you may have to make compromises on what you can do. Maybe that means forgoing an upgrade to make one more event, or forgoing one event to make that upgrade. If funds are lacking, consider teaming up with someone to share expenses. My partner and I are college students with very little extra money, but with help and planning we were able to make two Tour events and the championships last year. If possible, set aside money for unexpected repairs or circumstances.

• **Be Flexible with Your Plan:** So you've got your plan and you're ready to roll. But what if your car breaks unexpectedly right before an event? Have a backup plan. If you miss an event due to unforeseen circumstances, keep one additional event on your schedule as a backup. If you've befriended some of your competitors, find out who may be willing to offer you a ride if your car breaks down. If possible, find out what parts may break more frequently than others in your particular car; take spares with you when you travel, if possible.

Hope this gives you a good start and good luck!

See more at: mazdamotorsports.com



“Pick a class you can afford. So many people want to have a really fast car. Well, really fast cars cost a lot of money and typically don’t have a lot of entries in their classes. If you go in one of the Street classes, or even Street Touring, it’s a lot more affordable. There’s nothing more frustrating than being beat because someone has more money than you. In the Street and Street Touring classes a lot of it goes back to how fast the driver is. Pick a class that has a lot of entries in it – that’ll make you a better driver.”

—Bob Endicott

1995 (CSP) and 1999 (GS) Solo National Champion; 1999 (EP) Club Racing National Champion



Membership Application

Dear Prospective SCCA Member:

To apply for a membership in the Sports Car Club of America, the world's largest motorsports enthusiast organization, please complete the form below and return, with payment, to SCCA Membership Department, P.O. Box 299, Topeka, KS 66601-0299.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Spouse Name _____ Birthdate _____

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Primary Interest:

Please indicate the area of SCCA in which you plan to participate, or interests you the most.
(please check only one box)

☐ Club Racing ☐ Time Trials/PDX ☐ Rally ☐ RallyCross ☐ Solo ☐ Vintage ☐ Pro Racing

Membership Dues:

(Includes Salina Region dues -- \$15 for individual members, family members including spouse are free with payment of National dues)

	1 year	2 years	3 years		1 year	2 years	3 years	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$80	\$140	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/> First Gear	\$45	\$75	\$95	(Age 24 and under)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$100	\$180	\$245	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	Same as individual or family			
(includes children under age 21)				(Then apply for a rebate, see below)				

Amount Due

Membership Amount \$ _____

Weekend Membership #1 _____ -\$15.00

Weekend Membership #2 _____ -\$15.00

Referred by SCCA Member _____ # _____ -\$15.00

First / Last Name & Member Number REQUIRED

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

~~I will become a member in the region I reside in or place me in the **Salina** region.~~
By accepting membership in the SCCA and any SCCA Region I agree to conduct myself according to the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship in a manner that shall not be prejudicial to the reputation of the Club or fellow members.

Applicant's Name (Signature Required) _____

Date (Required) _____

Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order

Visa/MasterCard (only) Acct# _____ Exp. _____

Applications submitted by fax must be accompanied by a Visa or MasterCard account number for payment.

Dues include payment for subscription To SportsCar (\$24 value)
Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions)

2/10

Military Discount

If you are in active United States Military service, you qualify for a \$35 rebate making your total dues just \$45 (\$65 for family). After joining the SCCA and receiving your membership card, then mail, fax, or email a copy of your active duty orders or military identification card to:

Military Rebate

SCCA Inc.

P.O. Box 19400

Topeka, KS 66619-0400

Fax: (785) 232-7213

Email: militaryrebate@scca.com

* Military deployed to hazardous duty areas are eligible to have their dues waived by contacting SCCA.

Just Idling Around

—ABNER PERNEY

The last quarter of 2015 flew by without any autocross participation on my part, but I did finish a sidewalk building project that has been listed on the Refrigerator since we moved 5 years ago! I also managed some car adventures and misadventures, and learned a little more about plug-in hybrids and pure battery electrics.

Thus the Leaf. The Nissan Leaf is the top selling battery electric car in the USA. They are pretty darned cheap when coming off lease, and many of those are only around 20,000 miles. I bought a 2012 in September, and found out several interesting facts. It does in fact pull its advertised 80 mile range, with reasonable driving and mild weather. I typically drive 20 to 30 miles a day around Salina. No sweat, and about 3.8 miles per kilowatt hour which is under 4 cents per mile.

One day I ran down to Lindsborg about 22 miles one way. I went down on the old highway, only about 60 mph. Came back on the interstate following the first car that passed as I came up the ramp, about 80mph. When I parked that night the car was still showing 13 miles remaining range and I had done 67 miles for the day.

What I liked about the Leaf is that it is surprisingly big on the inside. It feels plush and is quiet. The electrically heated seats and steering wheel are great! It is an excellent choice for the vast majority of the driving most people typically do. When gas is \$3.60 the comparative cost per mile for fuel makes it a real winner.

There is the slight inconvenience of having to plug it in every night. The offset to that is that you can program the climate control to have the interior at your preferred settings when you go out to the car in the morning – all on house current. And you save a ton on maintenance. There are no oil changes. The cooling system needs to be checked periodically and the brakes. The gearbox at 100,000 miles. That's about all folks.

After 21 days it was run into while parked on the street while I was in a screenwriting class at Kansas Wesleyan University. Somebody just drove into it on the passenger side, pushed it sideways about 4 feet, the offending car went over the curb and settled in the lawn. When I received the text that it had been hit and the police were looking for me, I went down to look and give my insurance info. The whole passenger side was caved in pretty hard between the wheels, but the wheels themselves looked untouched. It did not catch fire. So I turned it on, backed up a few feet, pulled back, tried all the lights, which were surprisingly all ok and decided that it was still



drivable. The officers agreed I could drive it if I wanted to.

It drove fine! Didn't even rattle. So I was a little set back when I took it into the body shop and the estimate for proper restoration was over \$13,000! I took the insurance money and ran. I'm seriously considering getting another someday.

So I need to get a Chevy Volt and see how the generator (Range Extender in California Regulatory Speak) hybrid stacks up. I've had conventional hybrids, and a plug-in Ford C-Max and a Plug-in Prius, but only a couple short test drives in Volts. The Volt is the most common and least expensive of that type hybrid. The next closest in price and availability is the BMW i3REX, which has really distinctive styling and technology, but is nearly double the money of a Volt.

The weirdness of our times is that gasoline is currently at an all time low in price. Adjusted for inflation, it is now as low as the 17 cent stuff of my high school days. So, to equal the fuel cost of an electric car you need to get about 40 mpg on regular gas.

There is only one conventional car rated that high and that is the humble 3 cylinder CVT Mitsubishi Mirage of 2014 on. Those are readily available used with low miles under \$10,000 and they have a 100,000 mile powertrain warranty. So as a cheap guy I really need to try one of those. It is my belief that the 1.2 liter engine is just a variant of the smart car 1.0 unit. The smart car gets lower mileage because of its poorer aerodynamic shape and its abominable automated manual transmission.

Just for fun I've been driving a bright red Fiat 500 Sport. It is a fine around town and country car as long as you don't want to haul a bunch of stuff. We did a Sunday afternoon drive to Manhattan, and enjoyed the sunny cold day with a visit to the Flint Hills Discovery Center, and late lunch at Tallgrass Brewing's Taproom. Good food and pleasant new remodel of a downtown building.

It really rubbed in the sorry state of downtown Salina. Manhattan has a downtown mall plus traditional downtown buildings renovated and occupied, plus New Urban style new development near the Discovery Center. All giving a wondrous image of a vibrant community rivaling, say, Fort Collins, Colo., that is in Kansas but is not Lawrence! For the 2016 Solo season, I am going to actually try to participate in more than half the Salina events, probably in HS cars and with a goal to remain the World's Most Experienced Novice. I just discovered that all Honda Preludes have been placed in that class. I think I know where to borrow a 2001 SH version with low miles. But there are more car choices in HS than any other class, so a guy with the right car affliction could easily do every event in a different car.

This is as close to a New Year's Resolution as I have made so stay around and see what happens. And remember this guiding principle for HS: "It's more fun to drive a slow car fast than a fast car slow."

March 19 (Test & Tune weekend) will probably be here before I am ready, but I hope to defy the odds and see what this autocross year holds.

Happy Trails until we meet again,

—Abner

SCCA Membership notes:

The categories of SCCA membership are somewhat confusing. In order to be eligible for all the programs of SCCA you need to be a National member, which includes a "local" region of your choice. This becomes your Region of Record.

Normally your R.o.R. is the area in which you live, but it doesn't have to be. We have members who live in other Regions' territories, and some of those regions have members who live in our territory.

You may also join as many other regions as you like, paying their local dues for the purpose of winning local championship points, receiving newsletters and participating in their programs. These are "associate," "dual" or "secondary" memberships.

The final option is to simply pay local region dues, in which case you are merely a newsletter subscriber, and not eligible for Regional awards, Divisional points or to compete in major SCCA events.

If you live in Manhattan, Ft. Riley or Junction City and have enjoyed competing in or attending our events, we'd love to have you become a member of our happy little club. If you should choose to join SCCA in our Region, be sure to use the membership form found in a Write Line or be sure to indicate "SALINA REGION" in the space above the signature. Geographically, Riley and Geary counties are in territory of our Kansas Region neighbors and SCCA will put you there if not told otherwise. Of course, once a member, you're welcome at any region's events. You'll find a listing of our neighboring region's events in the "Events Elsewhere" calendar inside.

**Associate memberships are due now for the year 2016...**

- Associate memberships are for the calendar year provided your National membership is active. Join now, and your membership begins immediately and runs through 2016. Dues are \$15.00 for single memberships or for family memberships (which includes spouse).
- Subscriptions are available for non-SCCA members also at \$15.00 per calendar year. Please send a check payable to the Salina Region SCCA, c/o *The Write Line*, 2731 Scott Avenue, Salina, KS 67401.
- A code in the corner of your mailing label indicates status. A date (such as 03-16) indicates a Region-of-Record member expiring at the end of that month. **A code such as A15 or FA15 indicates an Associate Member expiring at the end of that year.** A month indicates a non-member who ran with us at a recent event or asked for a newsletter. Other codes refer to complimentary copies being sent this year.

You must be a member to enter SCCA events. There are several different types of membership available, including Regular, Family, First Gear (under 25) and Military, plus short-term Weekend Memberships (we charge \$5). Find more information at www.salinascca.org, www.scca.com, or call Salina Region membership chair Rocky Entriken at 785-827-5143 or e-mail rocky@spitfire4.com.



Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/SalinasCCA

The Write Line
Newsletter of the Salina Region
Sports Car Club of America
2731 Scott Avenue
Salina, KS 67401



2015 SALINA REGION SCCA AWARDS BANQUET

FAJITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT

213 N. ROCK ST.

MINNEAPOLIS, KS

Saturday, February 20, 2016

Social time begins at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Mexican buffet. Drinks included are soda, tea, coffee & water.

If you have special dietary needs, please contact Dennis at smnck@att.net or 785-243-6753. Make checks payable to Salina Region SCCA.

Adults \$ 15.00

Children (3-12 yr. old) \$ 7.50

(CUT ALONG LINE & RETURN THE SECTION BELOW)

Name(s) _____ \$ _____

Name(s) _____ \$ _____

Children & ages _____ \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 15TH

Mail this section with payment by February 15, 2016 to:

Dennis Smith, 443 W. 8th St., Concordia, KS 66901

