

The Write Line

~ February 2020 ~



Richards Award Recipient Rocky Entriiken, ES Mazda Miata (Lizzie Enlow-Brown Photo)

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

Regional Executive Views

Our annual awards banquet is now past, for some it is the completion of the last season, for some it is the start of the new season. Whichever your view our racing season is about upon us. Those who attended enjoyed some great Italian cuisine, fantastic awards and the usual camaraderie. Dennis and Nancy Smith have done a wonderful job of setting up the event with the menu and championship awards.

I would like to congratulate all the award winners and especially Rocky Entriiken for being the first Dave & Jo Richards Award winner. This is Salina Region's top award to be presented to a member that has contributed above and beyond for the club. There were several deserving members that were eligible, and I expect to see their names on the trophy in the next few years.

I would like to thank the board for all their hard work that allows all of us to come out and drive, and a welcome to our newest board members joining us this year – Hank Brillhart (Chief of Tech) and Aaron Loggan (Chief of Timing), and our newly-elected Assistant RE, Brett Grier. The board is working hard to have everything in place by the time the season starts so please thank them for their efforts.

If you would like to chair an event and be involved

with designing your own course, contact Dennis Smith (see Pg. 2) to get your name on the list. We currently have dates open April 5 and Oct. 11. It is nice to get different perspectives and there are always plenty of members around if you need a hand and a site layout is available for preplanning your course.

Changes to the pre-registration process for non-members now allows Weekend Memberships to be obtained when signing up for an event. These Weekend Memberships will be activated at the event so please tell any new competitors to use this method rather than waiting until the event day. We plan to have electronic registration on-site as well but prefer pre-registration to eliminate most of the registration process at the event and allow more time to prepare for competition. It also saves you \$5.00 so please, pre-register.

March 14th & 15th is our first event weekend. A reminder – **everyone needs a new annual tech**, so come early on Saturday. Hank will get it done for you!

See you on course,

—Monte Rans, RE Salina Region



► Next Events ◀

Test 'n Tune - March 14

Free to all Sunday entrants, \$15 Saturday-only

Registration opens 8:00, closes 10:30. Cars on course 11:30

Annual tech begins 8:00 – drivers wanting annual tech should arrive early

Solo Season Opener - March 15

On-site registration opens 8:00, closes 9:30 ~ Course open to walk by 8:30

Novice Coursewalk 9:30 ~ Driver's meeting 10:00 ~ Cars on course by 10:30

Salina Region events at East Crawford Recreation Area

Pre-register (save \$5) – use link at www.salinasc.ca.org

Next Business Meeting

Saturday, March 14
After the event

Mokas Coffee
902 E. Crawford, Salina

*Business meetings
are open to all
members and guests*



Board Members ~ 2020

- Regional Executive

MONTE RANS, Hesston
620-327-2711 / mcrans@cox.net

- Assistant R.E.

BRETT GRIER, Douglass
316-665-1692 / brett.grier@yahoo.com

- Past R.E.

BILL PREHEIM, Minneapolis
316-772-3638 / cpreheim42@hotmail.com

- Secretary

CONNIE PREHEIM, Minneapolis
785-392-2532 / cpreheim42@hotmail.com

- Treasurer

THERESA WALTON, Hutchinson
620-664-9449 / t_mail@prodigy.net

- Ass't Treasurer

TIMOTHY THOMPSON, Leon
714-642-9539 / fj55toyota@gmail.com

- Solo Chair/Chief of Safety

DENNIS SMITH, Concordia
785-243-6753 / smnck@att.net

- Member At Large/Newsletter and Membership

ROCKY ENRIKEN, Salina
785-827-5143 / rocky@spitfire4.com

- Member At Large/Chief Registrar

NANCY SMITH, Concordia
785-243-5192 / mustang.nanny@yahoo.com

- Member At Large/ Chief of Tech

HENRY BRILLHART, Wichita
316-522-1339 / hankb72@cox.net

- Member At Large/Asst. Tech Chief

KALE MORRIS, Osborne
785-324-1617 / cabbage_morris@hotmail.com

- Member At Large/Equipment Manager

ABNER PERNEY, Salina
785-822-8570 / abscars@yahoo.com

- Member At Large/Timing Chief

AARON LOGGAN, Moundridge
316-288-3281 / turdoquattro@gmail.com

- Member At Large/Webmaster

MICHAEL MACE, LINDSBORG
620-245-1982 / mchl_mace@yahoo.com

- Member At Large

Social Media/Facebook/Youth Steward
ARTT MANN, Manhattan
785-565-3155 / kskartracing@gmail.com

Salina Region Schedule ~ 2020

All at East Crawford Recreation Area unless noted otherwise

<u>Event</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Mar 14 – Test & Tune	Rocky Enriken
Mar 15 – Solo	Rocky Enriken
Apr 5 – Solo	
Apr 24-25-26 – Evo Schools	Rocky Enriken
Apr 25-26 – Twin Solos	Abner Perney
May 9 – Saturday Solo (Sunday is Mother's Day)	Brian Tefft Jr.
July 19 – Sunflower Showdown Solo Series – Topeka	Kansas Region
Aug 2 – Sunflower Showdown Solo Series – Yoder	Wichita Region
Aug 23 – Sunflower Showdown Solo Series – Salina	Monte Rans
Sep 13 – Solo	Powercat Motorsports
Oct 11 – Solo	
Oct 25 – Solo, Octoberfast 31	Salina Region Board
Nov 8 – Solo	Aaron Loggan

The Salina Divisional (June 6-7) and Solo Nationals (Sep. 7-11) also score in the Salina Region championship, with bonus points. Lowest four scores are thrown out.

MiDiv



SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series – 2020

May 16-17 — Topeka (Heartland Motorsports Park)
June 6-7 — Salina (East Crawford Rec. Area)
June 20-21 — Neosho, Mo. (Crowder College)
July 11-12 — St. Charles, Mo. (Family Arena)
Aug 8-9 — Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Airpark)

SCCA 2020 Solo Nationals ~ Sep. 7-11 ~ Lincoln, Neb.

MEETING MINUTES

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

The board of the Salina Region SCCA met Feb. 22, 2020, at 4:30 at Martinelli's in Salina. Present were Abner Perney, Rocky Enriken, Tim Thompson, Hank Brillhart, Dennis and Nancy Smith, Michael Mace, Theresa Walton, Brett Grier, Bill and Connie Preheim, Aaron Logan and RE Monte Rans.

Bill moved minutes from the previous meeting be approved. Brett seconded. Passed. There was no treasurer's report. Theresa said she will have a cost and income sheet available soon.

Old Business – Dennis reported on the trailer update. He and Bill are adapting the pylon carts to make them more stable. A retaining bar to be placed in the trailer is still on the work order.

Registration setup in MotorsportsReg.com has been updated. Fire extinguishers are on the list to be checked. 2020 schedule has been approved and updated on our website. Rocky will have magnets with the schedule available by the first event. Rocky needs to have proof of insurance to give to the City of Salina before he can get the city permits.

Monte has sent the bylaws update to SCCA. The region's incorporation is in good standing. The FCC license for the radios has been renewed.

Changes to the Weekend Membership procedures, including a new Trial Membership program, were discussed. Theresa moved the Weekend Membership fee be set at the SCCA-recommended \$15.00. Dennis seconded. Approved.

The \$2.00 charge for using credit cards to prepay online registration was discussed and retained.

Abner moved to add Aaron Loggan as a new board member at large. Dennis seconded. Approved. Aaron will take the duties of Timing Chief in charge of setting up timing at each event.

New Business – SCCA has added new rulebook categories: Extreme Street and Electric Vehicle. XSA and XSB will replace our current STO classes. The EVX ►►►

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- **Clinton & Heather Boling, Salina** – Has a Fiesta ST, perhaps to challenge in H Street.
- **Aaron Loggan, Moundridge** – Has joined us to become our new Chief of Timing. Has run occasional events in the past, lately in a banana yellow Mercedes in which he won STO8 at Octoberfast 30.
- **Garrett Foster, McPherson** – Has run a few with us in past years, Facebook page shows a silver NA Miata with a Japanese plate on the nose.
- **Andlee Phengphachanh, Salina** – Drove a Toyota Celica AllTrac to an STO6 win at Octoberfast 30.



MEETING MINUTES

►►► class is for 100% electric vehicles.

Annual tech: Monte reminded that nobody at this time has a valid annual tech. New annuals need to be done on cars of all members desiring one. We also need new car and helmet stickers. Helmets that were legal last year will still be legal in 2020.

The March 14 Test and Tune will send first car off one hour later, 11:30 am, to provide extra time for drivers to complete their annual techs. Registration and Tech will open at 8am and close at 10:30am. Normal schedule on Sunday.

Monte asked event chairs to provide him pictures of their cars to use on the MSR event announcements.

Rocky information from SCCA presented at the MiDiv Convention: Waivers need to have signatures witnessed live. All waivers need to be sent to Topeka after each event. The new Weekend Membership and Trial Membership forms are online and can be ordered from SCCA. Susan Puls has volunteered to get new forms to us if we wanted. Monte will ask her to do so.

Rocky asked if there would be the same heat plan as last year. Monte will review last year's events to determine.

Next meeting will be Saturday, March 14 after the test & tune, at Moka's on Crawford Street.

Dennis moved to adjourn.

Submitted, Connie Preheim, Secretary

Farewell to STO

NEW CLASSES!

SCCA has introduced two new solo categories, three classes. Two of them are essentially the concept Salina and Wichita Regions have used for years called Street Touring Other – “Run what ya bring” classes limited only by 200 UTQG tires.

The third is EVX for 100% electric vehicles, which is about all we know of that class at the moment, so let's discuss Xtreme Street.

Salina Region will use the XS classes beginning this season, replacing our STO classes. We have heard Wichita Region is doing the same.

The XS category is pretty simple, really. The same 200 treadwear minimum applies. Beyond that, the vehicle “must be an automobile or truck manufactured for road use.” That eliminates formula cars, sports racers, homebuilts and rock crawlers.

Basic street car body and interior must exist. Windshield, side windows, upholstery, headliner. You can change, replace or modify almost anything, but you can't just strip it. Add a wing, spoiler, air dam? Knock yourself out (but there are limits).

There are two classes, XSA and XSB, differentiated solely by minimum weights (pounds, without driver)

XSA: FWD 2500, RWD 2750, AWD 3000.

XSB: FWD 2000, RWD 2150

So check the showroom weight of your ride. If your RWD car sold at less than 2750 lbs, you can run XSB, if not you're XSA. If you're AWD then XSA is your only option.

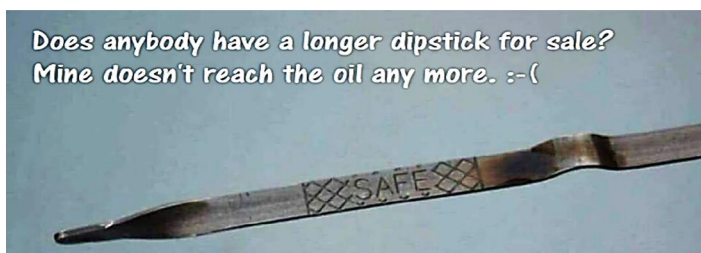
My 2000 Miata's stated weight is 2332 pounds so I can run XSB. My 1964 Triumph Spitfire sold new weighing 1475 pounds. It would not be legal for XS.

Showroom weight is a good indicator, especially since we don't have scales at regional events, but if there was a dispute true measured weight would have to be the decider.

Not just anything goes. There's an exclusion list for a few certain cars – all Ferraris, all Lamborghinis, all McLarens; also all Porsche 911s with liquid-cooled engines, all Lotus 7s including the clones. And that Acura NSX, Audi R8 or Ford GT sitting in your driveway ... sorry.

For more detailed information, there's a 2-page handout on the SCCA websites under Programs/Autocross/Rules. Or find it at <https://www.scca.com/downloads/48556-xtreme-street-xs-rules-2020/download>.

*Does anybody have a longer dipstick for sale?
Mine doesn't reach the oil any more. :-)*



Hill Wins TripleCross Award

Salina Region member Mark Hill is one of the four 2019 SCCA RallyCross TripleCross winners.



TripleCross honors go to competitors who, in a single season, manage to claim a Regional RallyCross win, a DirtFish SCCA RallyCross National Tour victory and a DirtFish SCCA RallyCross National Championship -- all in the same class. Winners receive a special trophy for their achievement.

In 2019 Hill competed in the Prepared AWD class in his Mitsubishi Evo IX and scored his Regional win at a Kansas City Region event, won the Kansas City National Tour, and the PA class National Championship at Indianola, Iowa.

The same Evo has also been Hill's weapon at all levels of autocross competition from local events to Nationals.

Herrick 4-time Mc-B honoree



Salina Region's Mason Herrick has claimed the McClintock-Berry Award for a record-setting fourth time.

The award is a special recognition for competitors in the Junior Driver Program who meet the same standard as winners of the Triad Award – winning two Solo Tour events plus the Solo Nationals in their class. Herrick won in the Junior B class in 2016 and in Junior A the past three years. His Tour wins came at Mineral Wells, Texas, and Lincoln, Neb.

This year both Junior Driver winners at the Solo Nationals won the award, the other going to Olivia Hammac of Central Florida Region, in the Junior B Class.

Eight drivers in championship classes won 2019 Triad Awards.

Never Mind!

Solo Nats run order change withdrawn

The run order change proposed for 2020 has been withdrawn after extensive member feedback following the announcement at the SCCA National Convention.

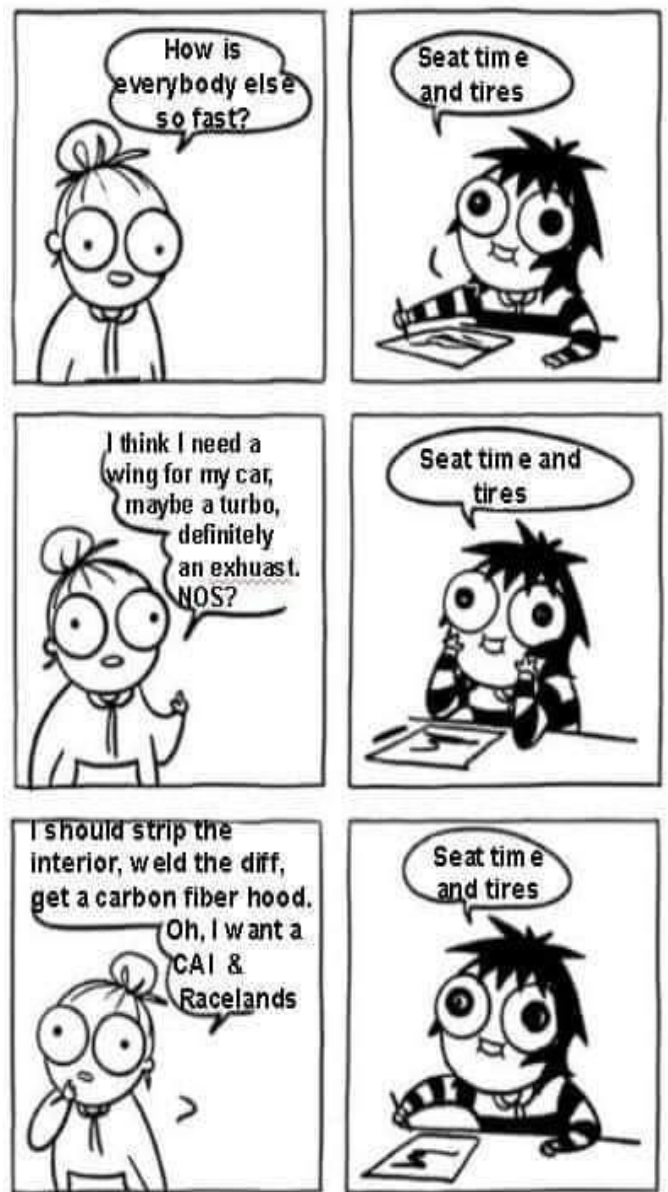
Mike King, SCCA Director of Solo/Rally, said the plan – run groups of Tuesday-Thursday and Wednesday-Friday – was presented and discussed with membership at the 2019 and 2020 SCCA National Conventions, and at the 2019 Solo Nationals Town Hall as well as from member surveys and solicited feedback.

Perceived advantages included additional coursewalking opportunity, additional preparation/repair time, and unified community. Negatives included the need to add one more day to the trip and disruption of competitive momentum.

"After reviewing member feedback, we believed that the new run order would be a positive change to the Solo Nationals experience," King said. "We realize that change is difficult, but we also believe that we need to try new things in order to keep our sport fresh and relevant."

"Having said this, we are compassionate and want to do what we feel is right for our membership. The extensive member feedback received since the Convention has made it clear that there are aspects of this change – and others – that we need to reconsider," he said.

King requested members submit additional input on this proposed change. To send a letter input crbscca.com into a browser, and specify Solo Events Board and choose Event Operations. A survey will also be submitted to membership at a later date addressing any possible changes to the future of the Solo Nationals event allowing all to submit even more feedback.



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AWARDS BANQUET

◆ Dave & Jo Richards Award ◆
Rocky Entriken

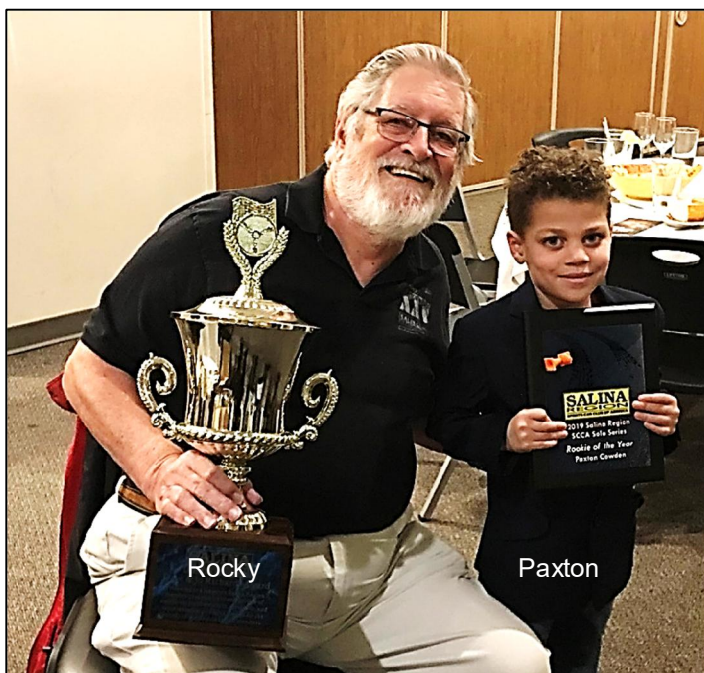
◆ Driver of the Year ◆
Mason Herrick
Junior A National Winner
Wild Car-D Champion

◆ Rookie of the Year ◆
Paxton Cowden
Junior C Champion

◆ Newcomer of the Year ◆
Timothy Thompson
D Street Champion

◆ Most Improved ◆
Tyler Naden
STO4 Champion
PAX Champion

◆ Worker of the Year ◆
Monte Rans
Regional Executive



Salina Region's Award Winners Through The Years

Year	Regional Exec	Driver OTY	Rookie OTY	Newcomer OTY	Most Improved	Worker OTY	Richards Award
2019	Monte Rans	Mason Herrick	Paxton Cowden	Timothy Thompson	Tyler Naden	Monte Rans	Rocky Entriken
		ALSO, National award: McClintock-Berry Award – Mason Herrick / Divisional		awards: Solo Driver of the Year – Brian Tefft Jr			
2018	Monte Rans	Kyle Edwards	Tyler Naden	Matthew Polzin	Conner Herrick	Michael Mace	Dave & Jo Richards
		ALSO, National award: McClintock-Berry Award – Mason Herrick					
Year	Regional Exec	Driver OTY	Rookie OTY	Newcomer OTY	Most Improved	Worker OTY	Racer OTY
2017	Monte Rans	Joey Green	Brian Hardeman	Sharon & Henry Brillhart	J.D. Baughman	Monte Rans	—
		ALSO, National award: McClintock-Berry Award – Mason Herrick / Divisional		awards: Driver of the Year – Joey Green; Scharnberg Spirit of Solo Award – Brian Tefft Jr			
2016	Monte Rans	Abner Perney	J.D. Baughman	Clay Johnson	Randy Puls	Brian Tefft Jr	—
		ALSO, National awards: Dick Berger Perseverance Award – Rocky Entriken; McClintock-Berry Award – Mason Herrick					
2015	Bill Preheim	Monte Rans	James Hund	Daniel Rowland	Rodney Walters	—	—
2014	Bill Preheim	Bill Preheim	Haylee Terrill	Radlee Bien	Srdjan Ortiz	Janner Ortiz	—
2013	Bill Dayton	Mason Herrick	Tim Beach	David Knudsen	—	Artt Mann	—
2012	Bill Dayton	Eric Cunningham	Christopher Mauro	Randy & Karen Eickhoff	Fred Johnson	Bill & Connie Preheim	—
2011	Bill Dayton	Mark Hill	Connie Preheim/Gordon Hanisch	—	Wichita State FSAE	—	Rocky Entriken
2010	Dennis Smith	Bill Dayton	Caitlyn Entriken	—	—	—	—
2009	Dennis Smith	Ann LaRondeau	Dave Matula	—	—	Bill Dayton	—
2008	Dennis Smith	unknown	—	—	—	—	—
2007	Dennis Smith	Abner Perney	Mark Pemberton	—	Nancy Smith\	Bill Dayton	—
2006	Steve Pistora	Bob Lambert	Dan Bergman	Mark Hill	Alan Reed	Barry Stockinger	Teresa Pistora
2005	Steve Pistora	Joe Silva	Anthony Dail	Mark Braun	Bill Preheim	—	—
2004	Steve Pistora	Steve Pistora	Mark Laucks	Chris Lawrie	Kelly Banks	—	Bill Pemberton
2003	Abner Perney	Joe Silva	Jeff Hrenchir	John LaRondeau	Bill Wong	—	Bill Pemberton
2002	Abner Perney	Ann Commerford/Dave Richards	Frank Sendelbach	Mark Charbonneau	Dennis Smith	—	—
2001	Dave Richards	Dave Richards	Steve Pistora	—	—	Sandy Entriken	Rocky Entriken
2000	Dave Richards	Rocky Entriken	James Andrew	—	—	—	—
1999	Dave Richards	Bill Dayton	—	—	Ty Martin	Rocky Entriken	Jarold Boettcher
1998	Dave Richards	none	Bill Dayton	—	—	Dave Richards	Tom Smith
		ALSO: Race Workers - Gary & Linda Spurgeon, Carolee Miner, Don Merriman, Rocky & Sandy Entriken					
1997	Dave Richards	unknown	—	—	—	—	—
1996	Dave Richards	Rob Pickrell	Gary Latham	—	—	Jo Richards	Gary Cook
		ALSO: Race Worker - Carolee Miner					
1995	Dave Richards	Rob Pickrell	Renee Stout-Montoya	—	—	Dave Richards	Rocky Entriken
1994	Rocky Entriken	Barb Pickrell/Dave Richards	Mike Neustrom	—	—	—	—
		ALSO: Race Workers - Rocky & Sandy Entriken, Carolee Miner, Don Merriman					
1993	Jo Richards	Jim French	—	—	—	Dave Richards/Rocky Entriken	—
		ALSO: Race Worker - Carolee Miner					
1992	Jo Richards	Dave Richards/Rob Pickrell	—	—	—	Abner Perney	Gary Cook
		ALSO: Race Worker - Carolee Miner; Novice Race Worker – Roger Coberly					
1991	Carolee Miner	Jo Richards	Adam Perney	—	—	Don Merriman	—
		ALSO: Race Worker - Carolee Miner					
1990	Steve Snyder	Bill Pemberton	Jason Adamson	—	—	Rob Pickrell	—
1989	Abner Perney (Salina Chapter President)	ALSO: Divisional Award: England-Stipe Award (MiDiv's top honor) – Rocky Entriken					
1988	Bill Pemberton (Salina Chapter President)						

Events

Elsewhere - 2020

A calendar of AutoX 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 21 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC (Test & Tune)
Mar 22 NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa
 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
Mar 28 Kansas @ Heartland, Topeka (Starting Line School)
Mar 29 Kansas @ Heartland, Topeka
Apr 4 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo (T&T)
Apr 5 * Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
Apr 18-19 ... NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa (double solo)
Apr 18 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder (Novice school)
Apr 19 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
Apr 25 * Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Indep., Mo (Novice school)
Apr 26 * Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
May 3 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
 NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa
 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
May 17 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
May 23-24 ... Solo Spring Nationals Pro/Tour @ Lincoln Airpark
May 24 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
May 31 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
Jun 7 * Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
Jun 14 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
Jun 21 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
Jun 27-28 ... ProSolo/CAM Chall. @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Jun 28 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
Jul 5 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
Jul 12 Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC
Jul 19 Kansas @ Heartland, Topeka (**Sunflower Showdown 20.1**)
Jul 25 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Indep, Mo (Starting Line)
Jul 26 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
Aug 2 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder (**Sunflower Showdown 20.2**)
Aug 15 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Indep, Mo (Solo school)
Aug 16 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
Aug 23 * Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
 NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa
Aug 29-30 ... NeOkla @ Remington Park, OKC (double solo)
Sep 4-6 ProSolo/CAM Finale @ Lincoln Airpark
Sep 13 * NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa
Sep 20 Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
 Oklahoma/NeOkla @ Tanger Mall, Stroud (Turnpike Showdown)
Sep 26 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder (Street Survival)



Sep 27 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder
Oct 3-4 Kansas @ Heartland, Topeka (Double Solo)
Oct 11 * Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Independence, Mo
 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark
Oct 18 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder (Endurocross)
Oct 25 * Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Indep, Mo (Halloweenie)
Nov 1 Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder

RALLYCROSS

Mar 14 * Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley, Mo
Mar 15 * Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.
Apr 19 Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.
May 3 Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Winston, Mo.
May 31 Wichita @ 81 Speedway, Park City
Jun 7 * Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.
Jun 14 Kansas City @ TBA
Jul 10-12 ... Kansas City @ TBA
Jul 19 * Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.
Jul 26 Wichita @ TBA
Aug 8 Kansas City @ TBA (Test & Tune)
Aug 15-16 ... RallyCross Nat'l's @ Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wisc
Sep 20 Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.
Oct 18 Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.
Oct 24 Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley, Mo

Go

Racing!



Four 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. • Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka, Ks.
 • Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, Neb. • Raceway Park o/t Midlands, Pacific Jct. Iowa

ROAD RACING

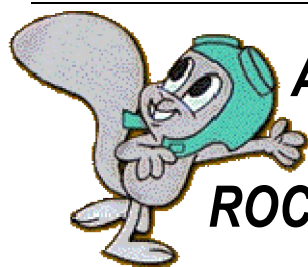
Apr 4-5 * Super Tour @ Hallett MRC, Hallett, Okla
Apr 18-19 Majors @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Jul 18-19 * MidAm @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Oct 5-11 The Runoffs @ Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wisc.

MIDWINTER TRIALS SERIES

Apr 18-19 Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Jul 18-19 * Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Sep 25-27 Time Trial Nat'l's @ NCM Mspts Park, Bowling Green, Ky.

TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

Apr 23 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
May 12 @ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail, Colo
May 14 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Jun 9 @ Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Fountain, Colo
Jun 18 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Jul 14 @ Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Fountain, Colo
Jul 17 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Aug 11 @ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail, Colo
Aug 18 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Sep 15 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka
Oct 15 @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka



ASSORTED NUTS FROM ROCKET J. SQUIRREL

—ROCKY ENTRIKEN

Wow.

Being a member of Salina Region's Board of Directors, I had some input into the creation of an award that exists in many other regions, as well as in several SCCA disciplines on the up to and including the Woolf Barnato Trophy – SCCA's highest honor. Salina Region has just completed its 30th year, but we have never had such a recognition, nor it seems someone of such distinction to be its namesake.

Last year we recognized two former members who had given much of themselves in the development of our region, Dave and Jo Richards. At a special luncheon at Martinelli's, they were given a stained-glass rendering of the C Prepared Mustang they had driven to a number of regional and divisional class championships.

Jo had been Regional Executive in 1992-93. After I served a term in 1994, Dave took over in '95 and held the post through 2001. Dave also housed and cared for our equipment trailer for many years at their New Cambria home.

From that occasion developed the premise that Salina Region should have an award, designated as our premier salute, in their name. The plate on its front reads:

Dave & Jo Richards Award

Presented to a longtime Salina Region member or members in recognition of significant involvement in, service to, and representation of Salina Region for the benefit of the Region and its members.

And then Monte called my name. For a moment I could only sit there. I went up to get it, and looked at the name on the side to be sure it really was me. For some reason the nameplate wouldn't come into focus. Then I looked into the room and people were on their feet.

Wow.

(Breathe.)

I'm starting my 50th year in SCCA and it seems I've always had my finger in the pie one way or another. I like responsibility, don't care a lot for authority, which is why I like duties that mostly mean I need to do this or that but have little power to compel anyone else to do anything. And over the years they've resulted in appreciations of which I can be proud, and by now I may actually have earned some of them.

In 1981 I received the Solo Cup, highest honor in the

SCCA Solo Program. By then I'd been chair of the Solo Nationals (1975) and had covered the event for SportsCar Magazine every year except '75. SCCA's solo program really only began in 1971, the first Nationals were in 1973. I had the feeling at that time they were kinda reaching to find someone to give it to. They'd done the obvious candidates. I was only the sixth recipient. The year after me nobody got it. The year after that it went to someone who has not been seen since. But then the program began to develop a history and later recipients have been giants of the sport

I hope in the years since I've lived up to the award. I'm still in charge of the magazine coverage, which has morphed from a one-man job to being chief of a corps of more than two dozen writers and keeper of the Solo Nationals record book. And I'm one of the seven 100%ers who have driven all 47 Solo Nationals.

The Solo Cup was presented at the National Convention then (today it's at the Nationals banquet). I got a call on a Thursday night asking if I could hop a plane to Atlanta, which for several reasons was not possible. I finally received it at the MiDiv Convention.

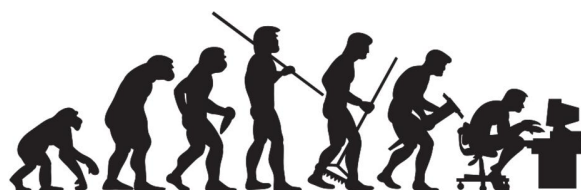
In 1989 I received the England-Stipe Award, Midwest Division's top honor. At that point I had been a MiDiv pointskeeper for 15 years (one of two then, in charge of the 2nd-tier series). It's a job I enjoy and which I still do today (I'm the only one now). At the time it still felt like I was one of the lesser officials. I keep trying to be worthy of it.

As it happens I missed the MiDiv Convention that year. It was very late, early March, and Sandy and I were on our honeymoon, which we'd set before the convention was scheduled. Nobody told me I'd won it. At a road race in May at Hutchinson somebody mentioned something about congratulations on the award. What award? He clammed up. I spent the day asking questions and everybody feigned ignorance. At the race party that night they sprung it on me.

It's special. I was the 10th recipient, the last name on the actual cup. A base was added to take the later names.

In 1998 I got the Vern Jaques Award, given for contributions to SportsCar. I've written for the magazine since 1972. Mine is the first name on that one.

This is a little awkward to write. I don't want to appear to be bragging, but I do feel very honored over the years, and after 50 years in this game I guess some things eventually will fall my way.



Evolution of a writer



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join the SCCA at <https://join.scca.com> on any mobile device or complete the form below and return with payment, to SCCA Member Services, P.O. Box 299, Topeka, KS 66601-0299. Dues include payment for monthly subscription to SportsCar magazine (\$24 value). Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions. All membership dues are non-transferable and non-refundable.

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Just Idling Around

—Abner Perney

Today's topic is Convertibles in Winter.

When I was a mere car child 9 years old, the coolest new car was the 1955 Ford Thunderbird 2-seat convertible. Not only was it a V-8 Ford with a neatly folding top, but for winter, it had a removable fiberglass hardtop! Only two years later Ford upstaged that with the family-sized Fairlane 500 Skyliner Hideaway Hardtop Convertible! This was and still is, a mechanical wonder to behold! YouTube still has the commercial featuring Desi and Lucy operating one. "Ford once again proves its leadership of the automotive world!" "The most beautiful car on the road today!" "Yes, a new kind of car!"

Seven electric motors totally automatically raise or lower the top using no more electrical power than the conventional cloth top Sunliner. "The world's first and only Hideaway Hardtop!" Ford ended production of this fabulous engineering feat in only three years. Fully retractable hardtops never really caught on industrywide. Convertibles were virtually eliminated by 1980, except for a few sports cars.

In the late '80s convertibles trickled back into the automotive world. In 1987, Kathryn and I ordered a new 1988 Chrysler LeBaron Convertible, which was our first specifically ordered car, and last. We received it on October 10, 1987, and we still have it! I start it and run it monthly, but actual touring use is pretty much limited to the fine days of spring, summer, and autumn.

In the 2000s retractable hardtop convertibles returned in very limited numbers. Ford did not participate in the resurgence, but Chrysler and GM's Pontiac Division did, as well as a few Japanese and German car companies. This year only a handful of retractables remain and they are all on the pricey side, the most economical being the BMW 4 series.

In January of 2013 I bought my first retractable – a 2009 Volkswagen EOS. This variant of a Jetta is unique in that it is like three cars in one – a 2-door pillarless hardtop, a large glass front sunroof that both pops up for ventilation and slides open for a semi-convertible effect and finally a fully retractable convertible!

This acquisition was part of a travel adventure. First, we drove to Colorado for Christmas with family, then took the train from Denver to Reno – A wonderful scenic adventure in itself. The Reno station is right downtown, practically ending across the street from Harrah's Casino which is also a Hertz rental location, where we hit the econocar jackpot with a bright red Fiat 500 Sport! After a few days touring and visiting relatives, we hit a San Francisco wholesale auction that featured 200 off lease VWs. We did not have a specific

plan, but there were four red EOSs. I bid cautiously and patiently and got the last one for the lowest price of the day! With that auspicious bit of karma we turned in the rental and headed for Yosemite National Park.

The EOS immediately sold itself as the best vacation touring vehicle ever! There were 16 inches of fresh snow in Yosemite Valley, the roads were plowed so with the front drive and decent all season tires getting around was no problem and absolutely gorgeous! We opened the glass roof and motored with the comfort of heated seats and the heater blowing on our feet! Two of the best possible days of winter driving in a convertible. We spent two weeks returning home and 4400 miles wandering the Southwest. In the more southern locations we were able to go full top down. In others we were buttoned up in comfort just motoring through mountain snow storms hanging with the mostly SUV all wheel drive crowds.

I sold the 2009 in November of 2013. Kathryn surprised me one day in 2017 by saying that of all the cars I've owned, that's the only one she wished we still had. Well, VW only produced them for 10 years 2006 through '15 (a few were sold as '16 models). So, I began shopping for another and came up with an off-lease 2014. Driving it to Colorado in mid-February inspired this commentary.

The EOS is a rare beast – only made in one VW plant in Portugal. It is unquestionably the finest piece of work ever to come out of Portugal's automotive

industry! We have enjoyed a lot of snow driving and some classic sparkling mountain views. The 2014 EOS is still a capable snow driver at 44,000 miles on the original Pirelli P6 Fourseason tires. I think I will need to get another set before next winter!

The only other retractable I've experienced is a BMW Z4 328i. This 2-seater is another summer-fall-winter-spring friendly touring sporty driving machine. A little more pricey than the 4-seat EOS, the BMW drops the top in seconds for the modern version of classic sports car open air motoring. Both cars feature a 2 liter turbo engine, the VW's coupled to front driving 6-speed DSG transmission, the BMW driving the rear wheels through an 8-speed. Both get great fuel mileage when touring.

I did not get to try the BMW on snow, but the transmission and overall stability system has an ice/snow mode, so with its nearly 50/50 weight distribution I think it would do snow just fine! Plus, it even has a heated steering wheel!

Now is the time to search the used market for retractable hardtops. Others I'm interested in are the Infiniti G37, the Chrysler Sebring, the Pontiac G6 modern orphan that ended in 2009, BMW 3 series and Mazda Miata.

Looking forward to another autocross and RallyCross season, 2020, counting on living by song lines like "Never slow down, you'll never grow old." And bumper stickers like "When you're over the hill, you pick up speed."

—Abner



**Abner's
2014 EOS**

SCCA Membership notes:

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 RoR 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 and participating in their programs. These are "Associate" or "Dual Region" memberships. Salina Region's Associate Members are fully-vested members eligible for all our championships, voting rights, region offices and other member benefits. Associate membership only means region-of-record is elsewhere.

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 Trial and Weekend Memberships (we charge \$10, the minimum amount). More information is available at www.salinasc.ca.org, www.scca.com, or call Salina Region membership chair Rocky Enriken at 785-827-5143 or e-mail rocky@spitfire4.com.

Associate memberships • • •

• Associate Memberships in Salina Region expire concurrent with National and Region-of-Record memberships. All Associate memberships paid direct to Salina Region are notified to SCCA Membership and expire on their National expiration date. Associate members are fully-vested members of Salina Region, although their Region-of-Record is elsewhere.

• Annual dues are \$15.00 both for single memberships and for family memberships (which includes spouse).

• To become an Associate Member of Salina Region, contact SCCA Membership (call 1-800-770-2055) and ask to be included as a member in Salina Region. The Region's dues will be paid at that time and added to your renewal fees.

• Or, at renewal time, renew online and you will find an option to "Add Region." Scroll down to find Salina Region in the drop-down menu.

• If you choose to pay dues direct to Salina Region (for example, at an event), we will notify SCCA and your Salina Region membership will become part of your National membership renewal.

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