

# The Write Line

~ October 2020 ~

**SALINA  
REGION**  
SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA



Clinton Boling, STH Ford Fiesta ST (Jim Gillett Photo)

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

## Regional Executive Views

As the end of the 2020 season approaches there are a couple things I want to remind everyone about.

First, Octoberfast on Oct. 25 is our annual member appreciation event, free to all Salina Region members. You can become a member anytime up to the morning of the event so come and enjoy.

Second, recruiting for 2021 board members has begun so if you are interested in becoming a board member please let any of the existing board know. Our meetings are usually held after an event so no additional travel is required. This is a great way to get more involved with the club and have input to its direction.

The format for the last event on Nov. 8 is still TBD. Could be a Mirror Khana or a traditional timed event. Last year it was an Endurokhana, you went as many laps of a short course as you could for 3 minutes.

We have had a fantastic season despite a late (May) start, with good turnouts and plenty of close competition. Two events left, so come out and be part of the fun before the weather turns cold.

Look on the points list (Page 4), which has now been stripped of all ineligible drivers (not Salina Region members). If your points total does not have an asterisk by it, you do not yet have the minimum four events required to qualify for year-end awards. The Divisional in June does not count against the four. For a detailed breakout of the points standings, look under the "Results" heading on our

salinascca.org website.

Thank you all for the safe practices including distancing, face masks, gloves and staying safe. To my knowledge there have been no confirmed coronavirus cases stemming from our events. Thank you all for cooperating with the restrictions and keeping us all safe. Hopefully next year this will all be behind us and we can go back to normal.

A big thank you is also in order to the City of Salina, the Salina Parks and Recreation Department and its Animal Services division for helping to enable us to continue our sport. Some nearby regions, including Kansas City and Ozark Mountain, lost their entire season because their college campus sites shut down. Our site is a city park. Thank you to City Manager Mike Schrage, City Clerk Shandi Wicks, Parks & Rec Director Chris Cotten, and all their staff who had a hand in making our 2020 season successful.

See you on course,  
Monte Rans, RE Salina Region



A McLaren MP4-12C for Octoberfast?

### ► Final Two Events ◀

**Octoberfast 31 solo - Oct. 25**

**November Finale - Nov. 8**

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 Berkley Family Recreational Area**

Pre-register (save \$5) – use link at [www.salinascca.org](http://www.salinascca.org)

### Next Business Meeting

Nov. 8  
After the Solo

Location TBA

*Business meetings  
are open to all  
members and guests*



## Board Members ~ 2020

• **Regional Executive**  
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• **Solo Chair/Chief of Safety**  
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## Salina Region Schedule ~ 2020

All at Berkley Family Recreational Area unless noted otherwise

**ALL DATES TENTATIVE – ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR!**

**Event**  
Oct 25 – Solo, Octoberfest 31  
Nov 8 – Solo

**Chair**  
Salina Region Board  
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.*



### SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series – 2020

June 6-7 — Salina (East Crawford Rec. Area)  
July 18-19 — St. Charles, Mo. (CANCELLED)  
Aug. 8-9 — Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Airpark)  
Oct. 3-4 — Topeka (Heartland Motorsports Park)  
Oct. 17-18 — Neosho, Mo. (CANCELLED)

**SCCA 2020 Solo Nationals — Sep. 7-11 — Lincoln, Neb. (CANCELLED)**

## MEETING MINUTES

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

The Salina Region SCCA board met Oct. 11 in the first base dugout at Dean Evans Stadium. RE Monte Rans called the meeting to order at 2:57 p.m. Present were Dennis and Nancy Smith, Rocky Entriem, Artt Mann, Bill and Connie Preheim.

Dennis moved the minutes from the last meeting be approved. Artt seconded, passed, There was no treasurer's report.

**Old Business:** Monte has been researching new timing equipment and has been keeping a record of the amount of data used at the events to have an idea of how much we will need. He has talked to a representative from Pronto who was very helpful and would meet with others to discuss the equipment. An estimate of \$1800 was given for the system, live timing and the first year of support. An annual fee would be needed after the first year. Also, more members need to be trained to operate the timing equipment. A possible demonstration might be held at the December meeting.

Rocky reported the six new helmets had been ordered and would be shipped around the end of this year or first of next. At the present time there is no spray for the helmets in the trailer and Dennis volunteered to get some.

**New Business:** Rocky discussed the need to accurately complete and witness the Trial Membership forms. SCCA members can witness the form and there is a sample of the correct form in the book on the sign in table. Names and addresses need to be legible so the records can be sent to Topeka. Minor waivers also need to be signed and Monte will get the forms.

Artt reported on the two Salina Region Facebook pages. One is just for approved group members and the other is an open forum. Facebook will be changing group pages to a "Business Suite" sometime in the near future. Rocky questioned the need for two pages. Artt suggested waiting until the end of the year to decide.

Dennis brought up the banquet due to the COVID restrictions. Awards may be smaller this year as a result of less income from the shortened season.

A new trailer will be needed and funds will be needed for that. Using a converted bus or truck was suggested by Rocky and would eliminate the need for a vehicle to transport the trailer to the site. More discussion and research are needed and it was tabled to a later meeting.

Dennis suggested waiting until the trailer was loaded before giving trophies at the event. Participants would be there to help load.

Bill moved the meeting be adjourned, Artt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Submitted, Connie Preheim, Secretary.



# 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

- Oct 17 ..... Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder  
 Oct 18 ..... Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC  
 ..... Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder (Endurocross)  
 Oct 25..... \* Kansas City @ MCC Blue River, Indep, Mo (Halloweenie)  
 Nov 1 ..... Wichita @ Sunflower Aerodrome, Yoder  
 Nov 7..... \* Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC  
 Nov 8..... \* NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa  
 ..... Oklahoma @ Remington Park, OKC

## RALLYCROSS

- Oct 18 ..... Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.  
 Oct 24 ..... Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley, Mo  
 Oct 31 ..... Kansas @ Santa Fe Trail Cycle Park, Carbondale  
 Nov 8..... \* Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Winston, Mo.  
 ..... Nebraska @ I-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Neb.  
 Nov 22 ..... Kansas @ Santa Fe Trail Cycle Park, Carbondale  
 Dec 13..... Kansas @ Santa Fe Trail Cycle Park, Carbondale

# 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

## TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

- Oct 15 ..... @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka

**Because of the Coronavirus outbreak, it would be wise to confirm any event before leaving on a trip to participate in it.**  
 Known cancellations marked in crossout



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- **Jason Black**, Ft. Riley, has a 2015 Mustang GT to run in the CAM-C class.
- **Chris & Renee Thomas**, Wichita. Chris is an accountant. He drives a 1992 Red Devil Formula 500 car in F Mod.
- **Brandon Thomas** and **Darren Thomas**, Wichita, sons of Chris & Renee, drive a pair of NA Miatas in STS. Brandon (aka Bbomb) is a sophomore at WSU Tech in the automotive program while Darren is in high school.

## MiDiv



## SALINA REGION DRIVERS TAKE TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ten Salina Region drivers claimed championships after six rounds of the Solo Performance Specialties/R&S Racing MiDiv Solo Series.

Despite cancellations and postponements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the series opened in June with Salina's two rounds. The event by St. Louis Region was cancelled when Family Arena in St. Charles, Mo., could not be used. Ozark Mountain Region's event at Crowder College, Neosho, Mo., was cancelled, rescheduled, then cancelled again when the college shut down.

Rounds 3&4 finally happened at Lincoln Airpark by Nebraska Region, just days after the announcement the Solo Nationals at the same location had been cancelled. Kansas Region's event, originally to be the curtain raiser at Heartland Motorsport Park, became the finale in October.

## Champions

- DS – Timothy Thompson, Ford Focus RS  
 DSL – Crisanne Thompson, Ford Focus RS  
 ES – Brian Tefft Jr, Toyota MR2 Spyder  
 ESL – Theresa Walton, Mazda Miata  
 FS – John LaRandeau, Mustang GT  
 FSL – Ann LaRandeau, Mustang GT  
 SSC – Mason Herrick, Scion FR-S  
 STU – Mark Hill, Mitsubishi Evo IX  
 STS – Mike Herrick, Honda Civic Si  
 CAMS – Jim French, Corvette

## 2nd Place

- BSL-Susan Puls HS-Monte Rans  
 DS-Zachary Smith CAMC-Dennis Smith

## 3rd Place

- ES-Brian Tefft Sr. CAMC-Nancy Smith  
 SSC-Conner Herrick CAMT-Robert Clapp  
 STS-Brandon Thomas FM-Chris Thomas

# Conedemic

Yes, there was mass conicide on this sunny but windy Sunday, averaging 2½ pylons for each of the 32 drivers. Total victims of the Conedemic: 81. One driver accounted for 13 all by himself. Only six drivers got through the day without a pylon penalty or a DNF.



Dennis Smith – *our* Dennis Smith (there were two of them on this day!) – drew up a fast course that saw some cars in 3rd gear and others banging on the rev limiters in as many as three places on the course. The faster you go, the more precise you must be. But it was also a course that required an aggressive attack to find low times. Aggression + lack of precision = conicide.

There was only one true close battle for class honors, that coming in H Street where Monte Rans edged Don Herrick by 0.028 sec. Don was quickest on first runs at 55.2. Monte turned 55.028 on his second try while Herrick coned a 54. And then neither one could find the same quickness again. But it was good enough to garner Monte the Top PAX and Herrick ended up 4th on the PAX chart.

In between them was Mason Smith, dominating the E Street bunch, and then Robert Clapp, winning CAM-T, the largest class of the day at four cars to take Fast Fender at 52.755 sec.

The only driver quicker than Clapp was Chris Thomas in his F Mod Red Devil, FTD at 47.651 sec. Nobody else even saw 52 and only three drivers even got down to 53s – STR champ Dylan Smith at 53.3; STS winner Brandon Thomas (son of Chris) at 53.6, and XSB victor Colton Maxwell at 53.9.

## ~~~ Conedemic • PAX Rankings ~~~

Driver	Class	Time	Index	PAX
Monte Rans	HS	55.028	*0.780	42.921
Mason Smith	ES	54.146	*0.793	42.937
Robert Clapp	CAMT	52.755	*0.817	43.101
Don Herrick	HS	55.298	*0.780	43.132
Chris Thomas	FM	47.651	*0.911	43.410
Brandon Thomas	STS	53.653	*0.812	43.566
Sharon Brillhart	ESL	55.062	*0.793	43.664
Zachary Smith	DS	54.261	*0.806	43.734
Rocky Entriiken	ES	55.470	*0.793	43.987
Dylan Smith	STR	53.394	*0.827	44.156
Henry Brillhart	ES	55.948	*0.793	44.366
Dennis Smith	CAMC	54.872	*0.818	44.885
Kale Morris	STR	55.449	*0.827	45.856
Nancy Smith	CAMCL	56.265	*0.818	46.024
Lonnie Moses	CAMS	55.329	*0.833	46.089
Steve Schrag	CAMC	56.372	*0.818	46.112
Jesse Zimmerman	CAMT	56.523	*0.817	46.179
Bill Preheim	FSP	56.565	*0.823	46.553
Colton Maxwell	XSB	53.927	*0.864	46.592
Tim Nicholson	BS	57.992	*0.814	47.205
Jason Black	CAMC	57.900	*0.818	47.362
Clinton Boling	STH	59.220	*0.813	48.145
Baird Townsend	DS	59.969	*0.806	48.335
Dan Blank	HCS	61.322	*0.794	48.689
Logan McNett	CAMT	61.804	*0.817	50.493
Robert Lambert	CAMT	61.825	*0.817	50.511
Connie Preheim	FSPL	63.692	*0.823	52.418
Rick Nicholson	CS	65.815	*0.809	53.244
Bailey Martin	XSBL	61.794	*0.864	53.390
Dennis Smith	STR	65.239	*0.827	53.952
Anish Srivastava	HS	73.555	*0.780	57.372
Artt Mann	AM	58.130	*1.000	58.130

## SALINA REGION SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP • 2020

### • SALINA REGION MEMBER

### Points after Conedemic

### \* QUALIFIED FOR AWARDS (MIN. 4 LOCAL EVENTS)

BS	Tim Nicholson*	30
	Randy Puls*	19
BSL	Susan Puls*	42
CS	Rick Nicholson*	30
	Tim Nicholson*	12
DS	Timothy Thompson*	*74
	Zachary Smith*	49
	Clint Holmes*	32
DSL	Crisanne Thompson*	45
ES	Brian Tefft Jr*	64
	Rocky Entriiken*	*57
	Brian Tefft Sr*	52
	Henry Brillhart*	*50
	Mason Smith*	30
	Jim Gillett*	7
	Colton Maxwell*	7
	Randy Puls*	7
	Devin Wright*	6
ESL	Sharon Brillhart*	*86
	Theresa Walton*	*64
	Marcia Haynes*	17

*For most of the season all competitors are listed. However, only Salina Region members are eligible for championship awards and must be members before Oct. 1, and run at least four local events. As of Oct. 1 all non-member points are stripped.*

	Connie Preheim*	7
FS	John LaRondeau*	*73
	Wesley Burt*	21
	Robert Clapp*	9
FSL	Ann LaRondeau*	*72
GS	Brian Tefft Jr*	9
	Brian Tefft Sr*	6
HS	Wesley Burt*	5
	Monte Rans*	*68
	Don Herrick*	*50
SSC	Mason Herrick*	*85
	Conner Herrick*	*57
HCS	Douglas Hitchcock*	24
STU	Mark Hill*	60
STR	Kale Morris*	45
STS	Mike Herrick*	*88

SMF	J.D. Baughman*	37
XSA	Aaron Loggan*	61
	Andlee Phengphachanh*	33
XSB	Colton Maxwell*	33
	Lance Cochran*	12
XSBL	Bailey Martin*	24
AM	Artt Mann*	60
FM	Chris Thomas*	47
FSAE	Devin Wright*	12
JC	Paxton Cowden*	12
Wild	Brian Tefft Jr*	73
	Brian Tefft Sr*	58
	Tim Nicholson*	42
	Jim Gillett*	40
	Colton Maxwell*	40
	Wesley Burt*	26

**\* NOTE: Divisional is not counted as a "local" event. All Showdown events are.**

Randy Puls\* 26  
Devin Wright\* †25  
† Has run three classes

### ♦ PAX – Top 10 ♦

HS	Monte Rans*	558
HS	Don Herrick*	540
ESL	Sharon Brillhart*	524
SSC	Mason Herrick*	494
STS	Mike Herrick*	492
ES	Rocky Entriiken	491
ES	Henry Brillhart	480
ES	Brian Tefft Jr*	472
DS	Timothy Thompson*	462
STU	Mark Hill*	459







# CONEDEMIC



Salina Region SCCA ~ October 11, 2020 ~ Berkley Family Recreational Area, Salina

Class	Driver	No.	Car	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Run 6	Best
BS	• Tim Nicholson	189	Subaru WRX STi	60.661	59.333	59.679+2	59.184	57.992	59.240	57.992
CS	• Rick Nicholson	26	Mazda Miata	79.774+1	73.734	70.853	70.859	67.381	65.815	65.815
DS	• Zachary Smith	3	Subaru WRX STi	55.327+1	55.742+1	54.261	55.050+1	53.901+2	54.405+1	54.261
	Baird Townsend	13	Subaru WRX	69.637	63.585	61.221	59.969	67.564	62.476	59.969
ES	• Mason Smith	16	Mazda Miata	55.273	D.N.F.	54.342+1	54.462+1	54.409	54.146	54.146
	Rocky Entriken	4	Mazda Miata	59.629	57.253	57.307	55.539	55.470	55.762	55.470
	Henry Brillhart	48	Mazda Miata	57.262	D.N.F.	57.645	55.948	56.477+1	D.N.F.	55.948
ESL	• Sharon Brillhart	28	Toyota MR2	55.062	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	55.701+1	54.295+2	55.062
HS	• Monte Rans	52	Mini Cooper	57.312	55.028	55.425+1	55.550	63.323	D.N.F.	55.028
	Don Herrick	8	Ford Fiesta ST	55.298	54.514+1	D.N.F.	55.545	55.460	56.356	55.298
	Anish Srivastava	99	Honda Civic EX	82.970+2	76.085	74.474	73.555	75.313	73.717	73.555
HCS	• Dan Blank	42	Rover Mini	66.028	63.178	61.746	61.322	64.127	60.786+1	61.322
STR	• Dylan Smith	45	Toyota MR2 Spyder	55.820+3	54.018+2	D.N.F.	53.492+1	53.394	52.591+1	53.394
	Kale Morris	24	Mazda Miata	57.051	54.854+5	56.390	55.449	53.736+1	54.756+1	55.449
	Dennis Smith	145	Toyota MR2 Spyder	69.312	61.239+2	D.N.F.	59.875+6	62.003+2	62.634+3	65.239
STS	• Brandon Thomas	15	Mazda Miata	55.193+2	54.451+4	53.646+1	53.808+1	54.393	53.653	53.653
STH	• Clinton Boling	68	Ford Fiesta ST	60.419	60.021+1	58.446+1	62.868+1	59.604	59.220	59.220
CAM-C	• Dennis Smith	6	Mustang Cobra	59.357	57.211	56.144	55.286	54.872	54.631+1	54.872
	Steve Schrag	109	Mustang	58.780	58.770	57.976	57.314	57.378	56.372	56.372
	Jason Black	32	Mustang GT	D.N.F.	59.270+1	58.054+2	58.665+1	56.895+1	57.900	57.900
CAM-CL	• Nancy Smith	69	Mustang Cobra	60.533	58.943	57.646	56.894	56.581	56.265	56.265
CAM-S	• Lonnie Moses	39	Corvette	55.679+1	55.143+2	55.329	D.N.F.	57.984	54.618+1	55.329
CAM-T	• Robert Clapp	81	Camaro Z-28	54.545	54.251	53.395	53.866+1	52.755	54.209+2	52.755
	Jesse Zimmerman	65	Mustang	56.523	D.N.S.	D.N.S.	D.N.S.	D.N.S.	D.N.S.	56.523
	Logan McNett	99	Camaro	64.180	61.804	62.107+1	61.012+1	61.068+1	60.733+1	61.804
	Robert Lambert	11	Plymouth GTX	D.N.F.	63.342	D.N.F.	62.492	62.582	61.825	61.825
FSP	• Bill Preheim	1	MG Midget	57.449	56.632	56.611	56.565	66.907	D.N.S.	56.565
FSPL	• Connie Preheim	1	MG Midget	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	69.285	D.N.F.	63.692	D.N.S.	63.692
XSB	• Colton Maxwell	42	Mazda Miata	57.276	57.352	D.N.F.	56.778	55.987+1	53.927	53.927
XSBL	• Bailey Martin	18	Mazda Miata	75.226	66.281	64.709	76.322	63.361	61.794	61.794
AM	• Artt Mann	72	Dwarfmann Dwarf Mod	62.151	59.161	58.130	64.519	57.827+1	D.N.S.	58.130
FM	• Chris Thomas	29	Red Devil	50.466	48.740	50.140+1	49.058	47.651	46.851+4	47.651

## East Crawford Rec Area gets a name change

*From the Salina Journal*

Introducing the Berkley Family Recreational Area.

In a 3-0 vote by the Salina City Commission on Sept. 14, the East Crawford Recreation Area on Markley Road has a new name and soon will have a new look, thanks to a \$1.8 million renovation project at Dean Evans Stadium.

Renaming ECRA was the final hurdle before work can begin to add full artificial turf as well as upgrades and numerous amenities at Salina's premier baseball facility. Kenny Hancock, along with Byron Tomlins, has spearheaded the project on behalf of Salina Baseball Enterprises along with Salina USD 305 schools and Kansas Wesleyan University.

The Berkleys, originally from

Tescott and led by brothers Mike, Mark and Hal, were involved in the founding of several local community banks. They and their bank employees provided a lead donation of \$650,000 for the stadium project as well as \$150,000 toward turf and other renovations to the Salina South softball fields.

"It's a good feeling," said Mike Berkley, chairman of the board at Bennington State Bank. "I think this (project) will be good for the community for a long time."

It also was a long time coming for Salina Baseball Enterprises, which finances Salina's American Legion baseball program and was the driving force behind the project.

In his brief presentation to the city commission, Tomlins also spoke to the

Berkleys' philanthropy including support of community art and theater, the Rolling Hills Zoo, 4-H, United Way, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Dean Evans Stadium has served as home for the 4A baseball tournament, and Bill Burke Park as host for state softball. Evans also is the home field for Salina's American Legion teams, as well as Salina's high schools and KWU.

Tomlins estimated the total cost for the baseball and softball improvements at \$3.6 million total.

Hancock said recently that he anticipated an October start for the Dean Evans turf installation, and that it could be completed as early as Christmas.





## 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.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

NATIONAL DUES ☐ INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$70.00  
REGIONAL DUES ☐ SALINA REGION \$15.00 (VARIES BY REGION)  
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – Go online to [scca.com](https://scca.com), click on “JOIN SCCA” – Dues \$90 National, \$15 Salina

*Sign up online to get an immediate Member ID and to apply credits and discounts.*

### DISCOUNTS (OFF NATIONAL DUES)

☐ 24 years of age or younger; eligible for \$30.00 discount until age 25.  
☐ Active duty or a veteran of the United States Military; eligible for 20% Discount.

The above information regarding discount qualifications will be verified and applied if appropriate.

*I hereby certify that the information above is correct. I realize any falsification may result in the loss of a discount and/or membership. By accepting membership in the SCCA and SCCA Region II0 - Salina. 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. I will abide by the Code of Member Conduct both at SCCA-sanctioned events and away and will strive to uphold the SCCA Mission, Vision and Values and the Welcoming Environment.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant's Name** (Signature Required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date** (Required)

### PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Auto-Renew** I understand this credit card will be charged prior to my membership expiration date for my membership dues. Manage your SCCA Membership account at <https://my.scca.com>.

# Real Cars, Real Roads, Real Fast!

## Press On Regardless rally has a long and storied SCCA history

*Article Courtesy of Hagerty, by Kirk Seaman*

As the oldest continuously run rally in North America, the Press On Regardless Rally (POR) has been held on the roads of both of Michigan's peninsulas since 1949. This year, its 72nd running, was Sept. 12-13. Andrew Layton has written a terrific book on the history of the rally, titled *Press On Regardless: The Story of America's Oldest, Longest, and Meanest Road Rally*. We recently caught up with Layton to learn more about this rally and its amazing story.

"It started in 1949 when the core members of the Detroit Region of the Sports Car Club of America were looking to create a signature event for the region," Layton said. "A couple of the guys had attended the 1948 grand prix at Watkins Glen and came back full of enthusiasm."

In addition, many of the region's members had returned from England after World War II and had brought back British sports cars—primarily MG TCs.

The founding members of POR

included George Gaston, who was head of the Detroit Region; Charlie Davison, an Englishman living in Michigan; Harold Lance, and Bob Collins. The group met at Davison's house in Birmingham, Mich., and were discussing what to name this event.

"One of the gents suggested POR, or Press On Regardless, which was an unofficial motto of the pilots of the Royal Air Force," says Layton. "In their honor, the group chose that name for the rally."

In October 1949, the Detroit Region held the first POR as a time-speed-distance (TSD) rally. It started at the Dearborn Inn, then traveled to Battle Creek, Flint, and then back to Dearborn for a total of roughly 360 miles. The route wasn't quite as rough as later rallies would be, so many of the cars were specials and hot rods. The winning team of this first POR was driver Vince Gardner and his wife, Louise, their car a one-off 1947 Studebaker Special two-seater.

"Gardner was actually a very accomplished car designer and had worked with Gordon Buehrig and assisted him in designing the Cord 810," Layton said.

The rally's route changed every year, and in 1958, POR was held in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and was the first epic challenge for the rally. This was also the first year that Scott Harvey would enter the rally, and from there he would play a key role in the evolution of the event. After 1958, the rally became increasingly more challenging, and in 1961, it was run as a 24-hour around-the-clock event. Harvey was joined by Gene Henderson in making POR a world-class event. The pair would team up later for the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally.

"At the time, they were the top two American rallyists," says Layton. "The fact that they were from Detroit was amazing, and they helped make POR the premier rally in America throughout

the '60s and most of the '70s."

In 1969, POR switched from a TSD rally to a stage rally. In 1970, POR appeared on the FIA's international rally calendar as a non-championship, non-points event. As a result, more drivers from Europe started to appear. In 1972, POR was added to the International Manufacturers' Championship calendar, and this was the year that the Lancia factory team showed up with one of its top drivers, Harry Källström, piloting a Lancia Fulvia 1.6 Coupe HF.

Lancia was the odds-on favorite to win, but Gene Henderson had other ideas. Henderson had a deal with American Motors, which owned Jeep at the time. Henderson entered a team of Jeeps in the rally and piloted a white Jeep Wagoneer, nicknamed Moby Dick.

"It was pretty much a shock to the entire community when Henderson went on to win the 1972 POR," states Layton. "It was the first victory of an all-wheel-drive vehicle in an international rally."

The years 1973 and 1974 were on the World Rally Championship calendar, and they were the first such events to be held in the U.S. In 1974, the Renault 17 Gordinis came over, piloted by Jean-Luc Thérier and Christian Delferrier, two of the best French rally drivers of the era. That was also the same year the entire rally was staged in the Upper Peninsula, and the teams ran afoul of the local constabulary.

"On Halloween eve, with the kids of the town out trick or treating, one of the Lancia Stratos did a massive burnout on the main drag of the town of Felch and hauls through town, which caught the attention of the local sheriff," Layton said. "The sheriff went to the next stage of the rally, set up a roadblock, and asked all of the teams to leave his county." As a result, a majority of the stages had to be scratched and the winner wasn't decided by the FIA until many months later.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, the rally continued as an SCCA Pro Rally event.

These were the years when legendary rallyists such as John Buffum and Rod Millen raced in POR and engaged in epic battles on the backroads and logging trails of Michigan.

"Many of those roads were designed for speed limits of 25 mph," points out Layton. "And were now seeing speeds well above 100 mph."

Today POR is once again a TSD rally without the breakneck speeds, and literally anyone can enter. "The great thing about today's POR is that it is very accessible," explains Layton. "As long as you have a valid driver's license, a street-legal vehicle, and sign our form, you can run in POR."

This year's running had 22 teams entered, with vehicles including not only the usual suspects of Subaru WRXs, Audi A4s, and Jeep Grand Cherokees, but also Chevrolet Cobalts, Ford Fiestas, and even a 1972 Datsun.

"The event is not a car-breaker," Layton added, "but low-ground-clearance vehicles are definitely not recommended!"



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