

The Write Line

~ September 2022 ~



Tyler Lamia, HS Mustang (Tianyang Xu Photo)

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

Regional Executive Views

Don't blink or you'll miss it. The season only has four events left and I can't believe it. Now with fall weather on our doorstep our tires can finally get a break. Ha, who am I kidding?

If you have been reading all of my REVS, my very first one spoke about the Region's members. How the Region was welcoming and felt more like a family.

Where I am going with this, is at the last event on my first lap. I barely made it through half of the course before my Toyota All-Trac decided to shred a tire. I thought I was done for the day, but when I got back to grid, without batting an eye Dennis and Nancy Smith offered to let me co-drive their Mustang.

I have driven many cars in my lifetime but to autocross a bigger vehicle than mine was a test. To have a fellow driver to offer their car to me was more than I could ask for.

This is the reason I love the sport. Caring and providing a great atmosphere for drivers is something we have always had and will always try to emphasize. Thank you Dennis and Nancy for letting me drive your Mustang.

If you have never been to a MiDiv Solo Championship, you have to try to come to next month's event. There are a total of three solos in October (and our finale in November) and the MiDiv weekend is a

doubleheader. Usually there are drivers from all over SCCA's Midwest Division. Plus the MiDiv usually has cool trophies. We are doing this event jointly with Kansas Region, replacing the one that was scheduled for the site they lost.

It's yet another example of SCCA camaraderie and cooperation. We were in a position to help our neighbors to the east and they are able to bring their expertise to our site.

As a Saturday-Sunday event, each day is a separate points competition in both the MiDiv Championship and in Salina Region's season, so even if you can only make one day it's worth it. Let's have a good turnout from our Salina Region drivers.

One last note, we are working on making some improvements. So keep a lookout for some new changes that should benefit workers and drivers at events. Thanks everyone and see you in October.

—Andlee, RE Salina Region



► Next Event ◀

Divisional Championship - Oct. 8-9

Berkley Family Recreation Area

It's two one-day events for both Region and Division points

Entry Fee: \$60 for both days, \$40 single day

Check-in, Tech & coursewalk 4-7 pm Friday

Drivers meetings 9 am Saturday, 8:30 am Sunday

Pre-register on MotorsportsReg.com ~ link at salinascca.org

Next Business Meeting

October 11, 7 pm

► On Zoom! ◀

Business meetings are open to all members.

Email Andlee (see Pg. 2) to get the connection link.



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Salina Region Schedule ~ 2022

All events at Berkley Family Recreational Area unless noted otherwise

Event

October 8 – Solo (Divisional Championship)
October 9 – Solo (Divisional Championship)
October 23 – Solo, Octoberfest 33
November 6 – Solo

Chair

Brian Tefft Jr.
Brian Tefft Jr.
Salina Region Board
Kale Morris

A Salina Divisional (if held) and Solo Nationals (Sep. 5-9) also score in Salina Region's Championship, with bonus points. Lowest three scores are thrown out, four if we do a Divisional

MiDiv



SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series – 2022

Apr 30 – May 1 – Wichita @ Yoder (Sunflower Aerodrome)
June 11-12 – Ozark Mountain @ Neosho (Crowder College)
June 25-26 – NeOkla @ Muskogee (Davis Field)
July 30-31 – Nebraska @ Lincoln (Lincoln Airpark)
October 8-9 – Kansas/Salina @ Salina (BFRA)

~~SCCA 2022 Solo Nationals – Sep. 5-9 – Lincoln, NE~~

MEETING MINUTES

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

The board meeting of the Salina Region SCCA was called to order at 7:10 pm Sept. 13, 2022, by RE Andlee Phengphachanh via Zoom. Also present were Sharon Brillhart, Chandler Brown, Rocky Entriken, Aaron Loggan, Abner Perney, Dennis and Nancy Smith,

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Old Business: Joint Divisional (with Kansas Region) – Oct. 8-9 registration is open on MSR. Registration ends Oct. 5. Sanctioning is completed. Still need to get Certificate of Insurance. Other assorted work is progressing.

New loaner helmets are expected to show up sometime in September.

Bathrooms at Evans Field are now open after remodel!

New Business: Venue for Banquet – The Garage is expensive. In February 2022 District Eat & Play required about \$500 food service and room was free. Other potential venues were discussed. Still trying to find what is available at a reasonable price and what fits into our schedule. Need to schedule around MiDiv Convention Feb. 17-19, and National Convention is typically late January. Other weekends (Feb. 11 or 25) should be clear.

Late registration fee is now active for registration after Friday night.

Please help keep excess chit-chat out of trailer during timing and registration. Workers need to concentrate on the task at hand and this can be very distracting.

Sept. 11 event – Overall, the event went well. Short course made timing challenging (very little time between cars), and corner workers had to hustle more than usual to keep up. Aaron suggested a red light at the start line to “Hold the Start” since there was little time between cars starting and radio chatter sometimes made contacting the starter a challenge. Some Trial memberships and Minor Waivers from previous event were a bit short on information. Announcer being outside of trailer worked well. Continuing work on a few options for a remote timing screen for the announcer.

Timing lights – Require four AA and four 9v batteries. Currently waiting on batteries to die before replacing (which everyone agreed was a good approach). However, we will plan to have fresh batteries for MiDiv Championship to minimize potential delays.

2023 Board Members – Dennis and Nancy Smith intend to step down from their duties as Equipment Manager and Chief Registrar. Looking for volunteers to fill these roles. Please reach out to any of the board members if you are interested in helping out the club.

Open Forum: Discussion about potentially paying from Zoom commercial account to eliminate the 40-minute time limit. Doesn't seem to be a pressing need at this point.

Next BOD meeting 7:00 pm Tuesday Oct. 11 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.



Nationals Trophies taken by six Salina Region drivers

Two dozen Salina Region members competed in the 2022 SCCA Tire Rack Solo Nationals Sept. 6-9 in Lincoln, NE, six of them bringing home trophy hardware. Three scored second-place finishes.

Ryan Pemberton – 2nd ASP – Mitsubishi Evo IX

Joe Silva – 2nd SMF – Honda Civic

Theresa Walton – 2nd ESL – Mazda Miata

Brian Tefft Jr. – 4th HS – Honda Civic Sport

Mason Herrick – 5th SSC – Scion FR-S

Mark Hill – 6th STU – Mitsubishi Evo IX

Also competing

Ann LaRandeau – 2nd STHL

Bill Pemberton – 6th ASP

Jeremy Scotton – 9th CAM-S

Joshua Huff – 15th STH

Phillip Meredith – 18th GS

Mason Smith – 19th CS

Brandon Thomas – 20th FM

Rocky Entriiken – 29th STR

Don Knop – 32nd FS

Gabriel Roche – 5th FSAE

Jacob Orłowski – 7th EP

Mike Herrick – 13th STS

Chris Thomas – 16th FM

Jim French – 19th CAM-S

Brian Tefft Sr. – 20th HS

Daniel Rowland – 21st ES

John LaRandeau – 31st FS

Conner Herrick – 36th SSC

BE A SAFETY STEWARD!

There is only one licensed official required to be present for an autocross to happen, the Safety Steward. We can never have too many. Right now we only have five. Would you consider being one?

There are two SCCA Solo Safety Steward webinar training sessions coming up:

- Thursday, October 20, 2022 - 8:00 p.m. CDT
- Tuesday, November 15, 2022 - 8:00 p.m. CST

Find the links here:

<https://www.scca.com/pages/solo-safety-steward-webinar-training-schedule>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- **Nathan Drouin**, McPherson, drives a 1972 Porsche 914-1.7 in the Heritage Classic Street class. He is leading the HCS points.
- **Douglas Jones**, Salina, runs a Volkswagen GTI in G Street.
- **Hunter and Ava Stoughton**, Wichita, children of member Chad Stoughton. They're newly added in a Family Membership, and Hunter, 14, just drove his first autocross in an HS Volkswagen GTI



Race car exhibit at The Garage

The current exhibit at The Garage, Salina's new downtown automotive museum, is race cars. Examples are on the floor from Indy Cars to Soapbox Derby. Among them are a couple of SCCA club race and autocross cars, including a certain 1964 Triumph Spitfire which has competed in 38 SCCA Solo National Championships, three Runoffs, and has raced and autocrossed throughout SCCA's Midwest Division.

Others on display include a March Indy Car raced by Al Unser, Ernie Irvan's 1991 Daytona 500 winner, a Reynard Formula Atlantic raced by Jeff Andretti, dirt trackers including sprint, midget and modified racers, a twin-engine dragster, Bonneville record-setters, an off-road buggy and Jeep, and even two characters from the movie *Cars* – an actual restored copy of "The Fabulous Hudson Hornet" NASCAR racer of the '50s done up as the Doc Hudson character next to a Miata dressed as Lightning McQueen.

The exhibit will be on display through December.



• SALINA REGION MEMBER			Points after Twin Towers			* QUALIFIED FOR AWARDS (MIN. 4 LOCAL EVENTS)								
AS	Mason Libby	33	<i>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.</i>						SMF	Joe Silva•	16			
	David Green	12							BP	Mike Alberding•	12			
	Frank Wietharn	12								Aaron Alnutt	9			
BS	Russell Blume	24							CP	Art Martinez	36			
	Laney Blume	15		Jason Martinez	12									
	Eric Underwood	12		Jacob Orlowski	3									
	A.J. Davis	9	FS	Theresa Walton•	14	SST	Mike Alberding•	24	7	EP	Jacob Orlowski	3		
	James Harrison	7		Aaron Alnutt	*45		Tony Votaw	12	6	FM	Brad Smith	12		
	James Davis•	5		Adam Winter	24		Aaron Alnutt	9	5		Dan Wheeler	9		
CS	Chandler Brown•	*90		Kim Hoetner•	12	STU	Andlee Phengphachanh•	*69	CAM-SL	Susan Puls•	12	Chris Thomas•	7	
	Mason Smith•	35		David Einspahr	9		Mark Hill•	26	CAM-C	Justin Gagna•	*60	Brandon Thomas•	3	
	Tracy Presnell•	*30		John LaRandeau•	9	STR	Allan Unruh	*35		Chase Kaiser	23	Wild	Mike Alberding•	36
	Loren Pepperd	*23		John Schmidt	9		Luke Scott	33		James Tackett	23		Russell Blume	36
	Jozlyn Brown	7		Don Knop•	8		Buck Entriiken	12		Connor Davis	19		Kale Morris•	30
	Spencer Funk	7		Ken Winter	7		Jacob Lynn	12		Steve Swartz	15		Theresa Walton•	26
	John Harris	6	GS	Dennis Smith•	*75		Rocky Entriiken•	1		Ethan Gibbs	9		Laney Blume	24
CSL	Kaitlyn Loggan•	*72		Ron Williams•	24	STRL	Dominique Rigsby	12		Steve Schrag•	9		Ann LaRandau•	22
DS	Tim Nicholson•	*64		Phillip Meredith•	23	STX	Ashton King•	12		Ken Stowers	9		Jacob Orlowski•	22
	Rick Nicholson•	*53		Douglas Jones	12		Tianyang Xu	12		Michael Appley	6		Kristin Jolly	21
	Ashton King•	*41		Shane Reese	9		Phelan Gagnon	9	CAM-T	Addison Bell	24		John LaRandeau•	21
	Jim Monroe	24	GSL	Joe DeWitt	7		Caleb Holt	9		Logan McNett	24		Susan Puls•	19
	John LaRandeau•	12		Nancy Smith•	*84	STS	Mike Herrick•	47		Mitchell Bell	18		Marvin Rozner	19
	Timothy Thompson	9		Kristin Jolly	9		Jason Rash•	*38		Bill Niesz	12		Zachary Smith•	15
	Dylan White	9	HS	Don Herrick•	*73		Ryan Plourde	21		Dennis Smith•	12		Brandon Thomas•	10
	Marvin Rozner	7		Tyler Lamia•	*36		Derek Hightower			Andlee Phengphachanh•	9	†	- Has run required 3 classes	
	Curt Meinecke	6		Brian Tefft Jr.•	28		Brandon Thomas	7		Cory Tibbitts	9		♦ PAX – Top 10 ♦	
	Zachery Smith	6		Brian Tefft Sr.•	18		Kale Morris•	6	CAM-TL	Nancy Smith	12	ESL	Sharon Brillhart	485
	Kathrine Thompson	3		Russell Blume	12	STSL	Kristin Jolly	12	XA	Aaron Loggan•	*60	GS	Dennis Smith•	482
DSL	Ann LaRandeau•	12		Giang Vu	12	STH	Joshua Huff•	23		Conner Herrick•	21	HS	Don Herrick	475
ES	Henry Brillhart•	*75		Laney Blume	9		Jacob Orlowski•	19		Stephen Costello	9	DS	Tim Nicholson•	473
	Rocky Entriiken•	*74		Michael Charest	7		Jacob DeWitt	12		Brett Grier	9	ES	Henry Brillhart	465
	Jordan Covert	18		Aaron Loggan•	6		Philip Richards	12	XB	Kale Morris•	24	ES	Rocky Entriiken	463
	Kaeden Elbert	14	SSC	Hunter Stoughton•	6		Greg Cheney	9	ASP	Ryan Pemberton•	16	ES/HS	Aaron Loggan	459
	Phil Brown	12		Mason Herrick•	39		Clinton Boling	7		Bill Pemberton•	7	CS	Chandler Brown	453
	Theresa Walton•	12		Ryan Ostmeyer	19	STHL	Ann LaRandeau•	10	BSP	Joel Thompson	24	GSL	Nancy Smith	453
	Daniel Rowland•	11		Conner Herrick•	11	CAM-S	Guy Roberts	24	CSP	Marvin Rozner	12	STU	Andlee Phengphachanh	436
	Zachary Smith•	9	HCS	Dan Costello	9		Randy Puls•	15	DSP	Jonathan Griffith	12			
	Jacob Brown	4		Nathan Drouin•	24		Jeremy Scotton•	11		April Turner	9			
ESL	Sharon Brillhart•	*96		Robin Tripos	12		Gavin Patton	9	FSP	R.Abner Perney•	24			
				Kenneth Tripos	9		Lonnje Moses	7	SM	William Cobb	12			

TWIN TOWERS

Salina Region SCCA ~ September 11, 2022 ~ Berkley Family Recreational Area, Salina

Class	Driver	No.	Car	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Run 6	Run 7	Best
AS	Mason Libby	62	2008 Saturn Sky Redline	37.954	36.554	36.068	36.099+1	36.888	38.030+2	37.203	36.068
BS	Eric Underwood	87	1993 Corvette	45.431	41.099	39.594	42.036	40.284	39.952	39.995	39.594
CS	Chandler Brown	19	1998 BMW M Roadster	D.N.F.	37.887	37.084+1	37.427+1	38.786	37.590	36.977	36.977
CS	Tracy Presnell	28	1999 BMW Z3 Roadster	39.516	40.047	39.760+1	40.455+1	40.994+1	40.862+2	40.038+2	39.516
CS	Spencer Funk	101	2006 Mazda MX5	44.143+1	44.507	D.N.F.	42.944+1	43.454+2	42.588+1	44.196	44.196
CS	Loren Pepperd	93	2003 Honda S2000	44.912	43.517+2	46.631	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	45.138	D.N.F.	44.912
CSL	Kaitlyn Loggan	43	2001 Mercedes-Benz SLK320	47.169	45.521	44.738	48.226+1	43.764	43.240	43.488	43.240
DS	Tim Nicholson	189	2019 Subaru WRX STi	38.670	37.305	35.824+1	36.548	35.458	35.688	35.761+2	35.458
DS	Ashton King	20	2014 Scion FR-S	36.805+1	36.260+1	37.026	36.616+2	37.080	36.936	36.085	36.085
DS	Rick Nicholson	26	2020 Subaru WRX	39.258	38.076	37.266	37.038	37.396	36.813	37.041	36.813
ES	Theresa Walton	99	1999 Mazda Miata	35.345+2	35.399+1	34.950+3	35.143	35.237	D.N.S.	D.N.S.	35.143 FL
ES	Rocky Entriaken	4	2000 Mazda Miata	37.575	36.532+3	38.055+2	37.307+1	36.995	36.487	36.415+3	36.487
ES	Henry Brillhart	48	1999 Mazda Miata	38.540+1	38.386	37.487	37.083	D.N.F.	36.830	36.992+2	36.830
ESL	Sharon Brillhart	28	2003 Toyota MR2	37.283+1	37.329	35.876	36.078	35.688+1	35.284+2	36.896	35.876
FS	Aaron Alnutt	32	2003 Mercedes-Benz E320	D.N.F.	42.598	40.981	41.227+2	41.871+2	42.287	42.006+2	40.981
FS	John Schmidt	16	2017 Camaro	50.053	46.370	44.903	44.169	44.663	43.200	42.358	42.358
GS	Douglas Jones	36	2022 Volkswagen GTI	43.697+1	43.066+1	D.N.F.	41.865+1	41.945+1	40.883+2	41.607+1	43.607
HS	Don Herrick	8	2015 Ford Fiesta ST	37.909	37.256	37.311+1	37.400	36.893	36.196	35.760	35.760
HS	Tyler Lamia	9	2000 Mustang	40.665+2	42.291+1	41.281+2	41.791+3	42.811+1	41.253+1	41.517	41.517
HS	Michael Charest	15	2006 Acura RL	48.245	45.663	46.046	44.892	44.222	44.470	44.132	44.132
HS	Hunter Stoughton	1	2012 Volkswagen GTI	50.555	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	48.648+1	46.909	47.439	46.909
HCS	Nathan Drouin	17	1972 Porsche 914 1.7	46.802+1	43.798	43.187	42.083	42.206+1	41.874+1	41.842+1	42.083
STR	Buck Entriaken	17	2001 Mazda Miata	38.377	36.842+1	37.116+2	36.594	37.874	36.611+1	36.819	36.594
STR	Allan Unruh	57	2003 BMW Z4 3.0	38.762+1	38.819	39.207	39.022	37.482	51.292+2	38.481+1	37.482
STS	Jason Rash	13	2010 Toyota Yaris	39.517	39.103	37.821+1	38.958	38.570	38.932	39.378	38.570
CAMT	Dennis Smith	79	1996 Mustang Cobra	37.545	37.107+2	37.801+1	38.197+1	38.525+2	38.182	38.674	37.545
CAMT	Andlee Phengphachanh	9	1996 Mustang Cobra	D.N.F.	42.304	39.090	38.718	38.790+2	41.371+2	39.642	38.718
CAMTL	Nancy Smith	79	1996 Mustang Cobra	38.632+2	40.047	39.421	39.515	39.258	38.945+1	38.924+2	39.258
XA	Aaron Loggan	55	1999 Mercedes-Benz SLK55	34.627+2	35.469	34.028	34.664+1	D.N.F.	34.784+1	34.799+1	34.028 FTFD
KM	Chad Stoughton	88	2020 CRG KT4E	30.661+1	29.040	29.104	29.753	29.600	28.560+1	D.N.F.	29.040 FTD/PAX

* Trophy FTD - Fast Time Of Day FTFD - Fast Fender FL - Fast Lady PAX - Top PAX

Upcoming schedule: Busy finish to the season

As we seem to do every year, the end of Salina Region's autocross season will be a flurry of activity with four events across five weekends.

It begins with a doubleheader Oct. 8-9. It's the final round of the Midwest Division's Divisional Championship Series, but at basic it is just two Salina Region autocrosses (it's also a Kansas Region doubleheader; they are co-hosting the Divisional with us and also scoring it in their regional championship).

You can enter either day for \$40, or both days for \$60.

Kansas region will do most of the organizing while we provide the site, equipment and the necessary permissions.

Two weeks later - Oct. 23 - we'll have our annual Octoberfast 33 autocross, using the same course map drawn 33 years ago by Dave and Jo Richards. The thing about the map, how it ends up on the concrete is always a little different from year to year.



It is also a celebration of Salina Region and our member appreciation event. The course was first run in the region's inaugural year. Octoberfast 33 = 33 years Salina Region has existed. To that end all Salina Region members in good standing get a free entry. You still have to pre-enter on MotorsportsReg but the entry fee is \$0.00. If you're not a member of the region, you can join on the spot and still get the free entry. If already an SCCA member elsewhere, it's only \$15 regional dues. We notify SCCA and you'd renew with your annual renewal.

Two weeks after that - Nov. 6 - comes the season finale. Just a regular old autocross to wrap up the year.

Salina Region's championship rules require competitors to run at least four events during the year. So someone could join the region and qualify for the championship in this year-end swing. Or, if qualified in one class, change to a different one and try for a double championship.

Our championship also requires a competitor be a member by Sept. 30 to keep all points earned earlier in the year. On Oct. 1 all points scored to drivers who are not a member of Salina Region will be wiped off.

Events Elsewhere - 2022



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 autocross on this date)

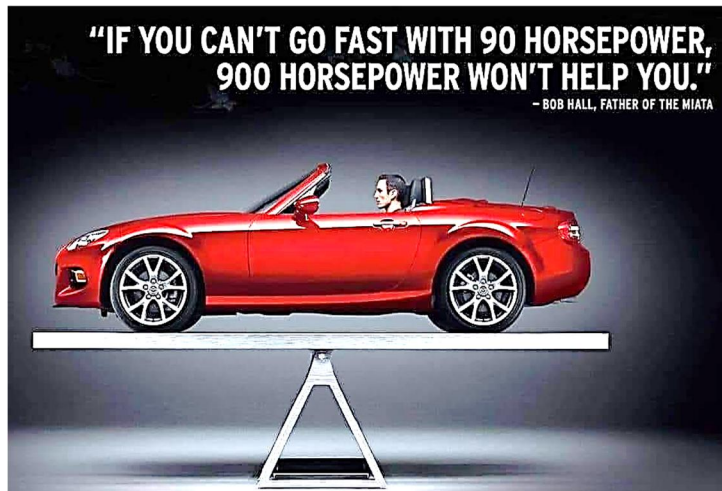
AUTOCROSS

- Sep 24.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE (Test & Tune)
 Sep 25.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
 Oct 8.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE (Test & Tune)
 Oct 9.....* Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
 Oct 16.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK
 Oct 23.....* NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
 Oct 30.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
 Nov 5.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE (Test & Tune)
 Nov 6.....* Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK
 Nov 13.....NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa OK
Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS (Endurocross)

RALLYCROSS

Sep 23-25 SCCA RallyCross Nationals, Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway CO

- Oct 9.....* NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK
 Oct 16.....Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS
 Oct 22.....Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley MO
 Oct 23.....* Nebraska @ Nebraska City Rally Bowl, Nebraska City NE
 Nov 6.....* Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS
 Nov 13.....Nebraska @ Nebraska City Rally Bowl, Nebraska City NE
 Nov 20.....Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Weston MO
 Dec 4.....Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS
 Dec 11.....Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley MO



**"IF YOU CAN'T GO FAST WITH 90 HORSEPOWER,
900 HORSEPOWER WON'T HELP YOU."**

— BOB HALL, FATHER OF THE MIATA

Go Racing!



Five road course tracks are within a 5-hour drive of Salina. Be part of the action as a race worker -- flagging on corners timing grid tech etc. Or be a driver?

- Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett OK • Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS
- Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings NE • Ozarks International Raceway, Gravois Mills MO
- Raceway Park of the Midlands, Pacific Junction. IA

ROAD RACING

Sep 24-Oct 2 . The Runoffs @ VIRginia International Raceway

MIDWINTER TRIALS SERIES

Oct 15..... Nebraska/DMV @ Midlands

TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

- Aug 24..... @ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail CO
 Sep 15..... @ Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Fountain CO
 Sep 20..... @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS
 Oct 13..... @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS

The customer is always right... ...except when she isn't

I've been a mechanic my entire working life so far, and this is one of my favorite experiences.

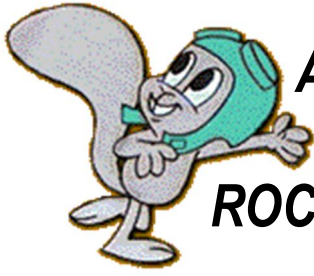
I had a customer come in complaining about a vibration. I put the vehicle on the lift and checked the front end.

I found a nearly broken tie rod and a faulty rack and pinion. So basically the passenger side front wheel was not fully secured to the steering system and would soon break and cause the wheel to be completely disconnected from the steering.

I told the customer how much the repair would be and told her it was unsafe to drive. She asked me to put it back together so she could leave. I told her that I could not do that because if it broke after I let her leave, I could be held liable. She started yelling and screaming about calling the cops and suing me and how her cousin's brother knows a guy who's related to the chief of police and I'll be arrested.

She calls the police and they come out. I show the officers the vehicle and they understood the safety concern. They told me to just put the car down and let her leave. I did and even made her sign a statement declining crucial safety repairs.

She left with the most "I told you so" smug grin on her face... until she left the property, got pulled over, and her car was impounded. They also gave her a ticket for reckless driving. —Anon



ASSORTED NUTS FROM ROCKET J. SQUIRREL

—ROCKY ENTRIKEN

So I finally beat my brother Buck in an autocross.

I managed to navigate Jason Rash's endless slalom a tenth of a second quicker than he did.

It only took me 57 years.

There's a couple of things to mention here. First, it's entirely his fault I'm in this game in the first place.

Second, it's not like we run against each other every week. These days I get maybe two cracks at him a year.

It was right at 57 years ago, Sept. 5, 1965, when I was visiting my brother for two weeks. He lived then in New York City. "We're going to a gymkhana this weekend." "What's that?"

On the third Sunday I got up the courage to ask if I could drive his MGA. The event was the Virgo Autocross, by Team X, of which he was a member.

"Sure, but you won't beat anybody," he replied. The MGA was in the largest class, 21 cars in Class F. Buck finished 5th, I was 11th. I came home to Lawrence and bought my Triumph Spitfire (see Page 3) and began running events in Kansas City. I think maybe once Buck drove my car at a KC event. He beat me, of course.

You may wonder about our nicknames. I was born Robert K. Entriken Jr., but am eternally grateful dad decided I would not be "Junior" or "Little Bob." My RKE initials became Rocky. My brother came along 2½ years later, named Edward Livingston Freeman Entriken after our maternal grandfather, but some distant uncle tagged him Bucko and it stuck.

SCCA was a minor player in the '60s. It was 1969 before I began doing Kansas Region events in Topeka (soon after I moved to Salina). In 1971 I joined SCCA.

Buck later moved to Lawrence, eventually opened his own repair shop, road racing his MGA while I was autocrossing. In 1971 I gave him my Spitfire and told him to make it into a race car. He raced it in G Production three years, took it to the Runoffs twice.

Buck raced a B Production Corvette for a year but never could keep an engine in it, had a Formula Ford that he wrapped it around a guardrail at the Ponca City GP, and decided maybe he should go back to a Spitfire. He bought another, took it to the Runoffs again, then quit the sport in 1977 when he began racing sailboats and building boat trailers. By then he'd moved to Texas.

Built By Buck, which first appeared on engine work he'd done in Lawrence, then on my Spitfire, now became his boat trailer business in Dallas.

When I gave him the Spitfire I bought a new 1971 Pinto, my first new car. In 1972 SCCA created a new road racing class, Showroom Stock Sedan. The spec on my Pinto matched up (2-liter, stickshift), so I slapped a rollbar in it and went racing.

My second race, at Sunflower Aerodrome (Hutchinson), Buck was there in my Spitfire, SSS and GP running in the same race group. There was this massive puddle at the turn into the esses and they'd put a big pylon to mark the edge. As the dutiful novice I was going around the pylon in practice even as the puddle dried up, until Buck came by, passing me far on the inside, and giving me this "what're you doing way over there?" gesture. That afternoon was my first race win.

In the Spitfire I ran a season of road race in 1977, another in 1980, and then budget didn't allow again until 1995. Meanwhile I was always autocrossing while Buck was doing sailboats.

The new millennium was maybe a decade gone before Buck rediscovered cars. Miatas now. By now I'd essentially parked the Spitfire and had a Miata of my own – an automatic 1999 that had been left with a "For Sale" on it at one of our events. I needed something to teach my youngest daughter and son to autocross and that became the weapon.

In 2013 Buck drove his first Solo Nationals. I was a 100%er doing my 41st Nationals and this guy who introduced me to the sport 48 years earlier was a Nats rookie. On the second day he suggested we swap cars. Driving his stickshift NB I was 3 sec quicker than his time in my automatic (he still beat me on combined time).

A week later he calls me, "I've got your new car." Didn't ask or anything, just bought it – the 2000 NB I'm driving today. We met at an Oklahoma Region event where we finished 1-2 in a 6-car class. He won, of course.

Since then I've been trying to beat him at Nationals, been close but no cigar. Once I was quicker on Day 1, he got revenge on Day 2. When Salina Region began doing our Sunday-after-Nationals event four years ago he'd stop off on his way home to Texas and we'd have another go at it. I never caught him. Until now.

He has a fleet of seven Miatas now, the white 2001 we ran this year at Nationals in STR is his Time Trials car. So I got him when he was in a car that on paper is superior to my ES entry (he calls it his "cheater ES," which is why it's in STR).

I've had a good life in this sport, and sometimes I wonder what it would have been if not for that visit in 1965. If not for him moving to Lawrence and building my Spitfire into a race car. If not for having Buck Entriken for a brother.

Love ya, bro.

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••• Associate memberships •••

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