

# The Write Line

~ February 2023 ~



Sharon Brillhart, ESL Toyota MR2, 2022 PAX Champion

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

## Regional Executive Views

What have I gotten myself into? Or the facial expressions you have when you have that "wow" face.

This was me after attending the Midwest Division Convention in Independence, MO, as well as being RE for a full year. I knew there was more behind the scenes than just showing up at events but the SCCA has many more competition programs than I thought. No, I am sorry I am not leaving, you still have to deal with me at least for one more season. Haha.

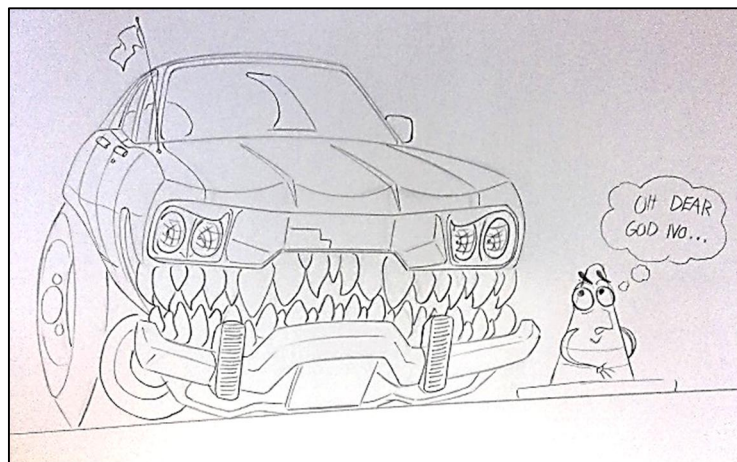
Now to February's banquet, I would like to thank everyone for coming. Hopefully everyone experienced the racing simulator as well as the variety of vehicles on display. Thank you Kale, he did a great job on the awards with very positive feedback. Even though everyone was jealous of Sharon's huge PAX-and-Champion award (see above). The other Championship awards were customized and amazing. I know I laughed at a few awards. Cone Murderer award as well as a Squeaky Clean award. A great way to look back at least season and build upon this season. Congratulations to everyone that won an award, as well as participated in the season.

ATTENTION: If you did not make it to the banquet, please try to make it out to an early event and we will personally hand out any awards at the drivers meeting.

Speaking about events, our first event is only weeks away. Can't you believe it? If you haven't received my email I will be sending another one out soon. The first event is a Saturday and Sunday affair on March 18-19. Saturday is a test and tune and Sunday is our first Solo of the season. Sign up for both days and the test and tune is free. Look out for the new annual vehicle safety tech on the [salinascca.org](http://salinascca.org) website so you can print and fill it out to bring to the test and tune.

As I am currently writing this, the temperature in Salina is 20 degrees. I can only wish in March it will get a lot warmer for all of our sakes. I don't think I need to explain why. I expect to see everyone out in March and hopefully some new faces as well.

—Andlee, RE Salina Region



Cole Lambert

### ► Next Events ◀

**Test & Tune - March 18**  
**Solo #1 - March 19**

**Berkley Family Recreation Area - 841 Markley Road, Salina**

SCCA members \$30, non-members \$45

Check-in/Tech opens 9:00 am, closes 9:00 a.m. — Course open to walk by 8:30

Novice coursewalk 9:15 — Driver's Meeting 9:30 — Cars on course by 10:00

Pre-register on [MotorsportsReg.com](http://MotorsportsReg.com) ~ link at [salinascca.org](http://salinascca.org)

### Next Business Meeting

Thursday, March 9  
7 p.m.

### ► On Zoom! ◀

Business meetings are open to all members.

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



## Board Members ~ 2023

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## Salina Region Schedule ~ 2023

All events at Berkley Family Recreational Area unless noted otherwise

### Event

### Chair

Mar 18 – Test & Tune

Mar 19 – Solo #1

Apr 14-15-16 – Evolution Performance Driving Schools Rocky Entriem

Apr 15 – Novice School

Apr 16 – Solo #2

May 13 – Solo #3 (Saturday)

Jun 3-4 – Solo #4 & 5 – Divisional Championship

Jun 18 – Solo #6

Jul 9 – Solo #7 – Sunflower Showdown @ Yoder Wichita Region

TBA – Solo #8 – Sunflower Showdown @ Topeka Kansas Region

Aug 13 – Solo #9 – Sunflower Showdown @ Salina

Sep 10 – Solo #10

Oct 15– Solo #11 – Octoberfest 34

Salina Region Board

Nov 5 – Solo #12

**Want to chair an event this year? Contact Kale Morris, Solo Chair.**

*A Salina Divisional (if held) and Solo Nationals (Sep. 4-8, 2023) 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 – 2023**

Apr 29-30 – Kansas City @ Independence (Metro CC Driving Center)

May 13-14– NeOkla @ Muskogee (Davis Field)

June 3-4 –Salina @ Salina (Berkley Family Rec Area)

July 8-9 – Wichita @ Yoder (Road Yoder Solo Site)

Aug 5-6 – Nebraska @ Lincoln (Lincoln Airpark)

**SCCA Solo Nationals ~ Sep. 4-8, 2023 ~ Lincoln, NE**

## MEETING MINUTES

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

The Board of Directors meeting for Salina SCCA was conducted via Zoom and called to order at 7:09 pm on Feb. 16 by R.E. Andlee Phengphachanh. Also attending were: Sharon Brillhart, Chandler Brown, Rocky Entriem, Justin Gagna, Kale Morris, Abner Perney, and Dennis and Nancy Smith.

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting passed unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Sharon Brillhart – Considerable expenses this month, with payment to the Kansas Region for its share of the MiDiv Solo Championship event in October making up the lions share. Chandler moved to approve treasurers report as presented. Rocky seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Old Business** – Annual dues to the Midwest Division Executive Committee have been paid.

Banquet was well received. Trophies got a lot of positive feedback.

**New Business** – Andlee and Kale to work on setting up account with City of Salina to be able to reserve the runway for future events.

A new Salina fee schedule for use of the runway is \$150/day, which includes the use of police escorts, barricades, etc., if needed. We don't use any of these types of services, have spent considerable amount of money in the past improving the facility. In the past the City has waived this fee for Salina Region. A different agency (Building Services) is now handling such reservations. Rocky and Andlee will discuss further with the City.

City of Salina reached out to Andlee and Rocky to ask about how much of the runway we used, as the city is considering either fixing or removing the bad spots.

Costs to put on events continue to increase and the club has absorbed these costs for years. After much discussion, Chandler moved to ►►► **Continued to Page 4**



# AWARDS BANQUET



Nancy Smith

Dennis Smith

Don Herrick

Aaron Loggan

Justin Gagna

◆ Dave & Jo Richards Award ◆

**Monte Rans**

*Salina Region's highest honor*

◆ Rookie of the Year ◆

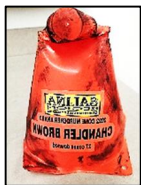
**Justin Gagna**

*CAM-C Champion*

◆ Most Improved ◆

**Tim Nicholson**

*DS Champion*



◆ Cone Murderer Award ◆

**Chandler Brown**

*27 cones killed*

◆ Driver of the Year ◆

**Aaron Loggan**

*XA Champion*

◆ Newcomer of the Year ◆

**Jacob Orlowski**

*STH Champion*

◆ Workers of the Year ◆

**Nancy & Dennis Smith**

*Trailer Wrangler & Registrar*

◆ Squeaky Clean Award ◆

**Don Herrick**

*6 cones, one DNF*



# Salina Region's Award Winners Through The Years

Year	Regional Exec	Driver OTY	Rookie OTY	Newcomer OTY	Most Improved	Worker OTY	Richards Award
2022	Andlee Phengphachanh	Aaron Loggan	Justin Gagna	Jacob Orlowski	Tim Nicholson	Dennis & Nancy Smith	Monte Rans
	ALSO, National Awards: SCCA Woolf Barnato Award (SCCA's top honor) – Rocky Entriiken; SCCA Hall of Fame – Rocky Entriiken						
2021	Monte Rans	Theresa Walton	Jason Rash	James Davis	Kale Morris	Mark Walton	Dennis & Nancy Smith
	ALSO, Divisional award: Solo Driver of the Year – Mason Herrick						
2020	Monte Rans	Mike Herrick	Clinton Boling	Chris Thomas	Aaron Loggan	—	Abner Perney
	ALSO, Divisional award: Solo Driver of the Year – Mike Herrick						
2019	Monte Rans	Mason Herrick	Paxton Cowden	Timothy Thompson	Tyler Naden	Monte Rans	Rocky Entriiken
	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 Entriiken; 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 Entriiken
2010	Dennis Smith	Bill Dayton	Caitlyn Entriiken	—	—	—	—
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 Entriiken	Rocky Entriiken
2000	Dave Richards	Rocky Entriiken	James Andrew	—	—	—	—
1999	Dave Richards	Bill Dayton	—	—	Ty Martin	Rocky Entriiken	Jarold Boettcher
1998	Dave Richards	none	Bill Dayton	—	—	Dave Richards	Tom Smith
	ALSO: Race Workers - Gary & Linda Spurgeon, Carolee Miner, Don Merriman, Rocky & Sandy Entriiken						
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 Entriiken
1994	Rocky Entriiken	Barb Pickrell/Dave Richards	Mike Neustrom	—	—	—	—
	ALSO: Race Workers - Rocky & Sandy Entriiken, Carolee Miner, Don Merriman						
1993	Jo Richards	Jim French	—	—	—	Dave Richards/Rocky Entriiken	—
	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 Entriiken						
1988	Bill Pemberton (Salina Chapter President)	—	—	—	—	—	—



## Special Award Minna Ali Helmet Boss

## MEETING MINUTES

Continued from Page 2 ►►► increase the base registration fee to \$30 (up from \$25). Dennis seconded. Passed unanimously.

DNF if off course? Considerable discussion on ideas to reduce the potential for damage or injury caused by going off course (off pavement), including disqualification for the day. No action.

Antique Event? Aaron Loggan has suggested putting together a cars & coffee with "Antique" cars appearing, perhaps competing. Some discussion around what we would deem to be an antique. More to come.

**Open forum** – Rocky moved that whoever tows the club trailer too and from an event will receive one free

entry for that event. This free entry is non-transferable except to an immediate family member at the registrar's discretion. This makes policy a practice which has existed for several years. Dennis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Rocky suggested repainting grid and expanding to 60 spaces – Discussed possible work party on March 11th? (NOTE: subsequently decided to do it March 19 after the Test & Tune).

Andlee to print off schedule for Dog Park closings.

Discussed desire to have monthly P&L reports.

Sharon said she would work on that.

Next meeting Thursday, March 9 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted, Chandler Brown, Secretary.



# Entriken given Woolf Barnato Award, SCCA's highest

From *scca.com*  
SCCA President/CEO

## Also inducted into SCCA Hall of Fame

Mike Cobb officially kicked off the 2023 SCCA National Convention Jan. 20 evening with a presentation commencing the Hall of Fame and Awards Ceremony.

"Tonight, we recognize and celebrate nine of our finest," Cobb stated.

"Members who have made incredible contributions to this Club and the broader world of motorsports, and who have a combined 200-plus years of SCCA membership."

**The Woolf Barnato Award** is the Sports Car Club of America's highest honor, presented annually to a member who has made the most outstanding long-term contribution to the Club. First presented in 1948, past recipients include SCCA legends such as Mark Donohue, Bob Sharp, Carl Haas, and Gen. Curtis LeMay. Joining that illustrious list of luminaries is 2022 Woolf Barnato Award winner **Rocky Entriken** of SCCA's Salina Region.

Rich Bireta, the previous Woolf Barnato Award winner, introduced this year's recipient by noting how impactful Entriken has been on the Solo community. And those words meant much to Entriken, who is also a member of the 2023 Hall of Fame inductee class.

"It is just overwhelming to realize that two different committees of awards selectors gathered to choose recipients for two of SCCA's most prestigious awards, and both of them landed on me at the same time," Entriken said. "From deep in my four-cylinder heart, thank you. It is an incredible and utterly unexpected honor."

Earlier in the evening, Entriken was among seven individuals – two couples and three singles – inducted as the 2023 class of the SCCA Hall of Fame. No one has ever received both honors in the same year before.

Also inducted were Kent and Kathy Prather of Kansas Region, he an eight-time National Champion; Costa and Wilma Dunias of Texas Region, longtime race and Solo Nationals chairs; and posthumous inductees Jim Jeffords of Milwaukee Region, two-time national champion and

longtime board member at Road America; and Bill

Scott of Washington DC Region, who bought and expanded Summit Point Raceway in West Virginia.

Entriken officially joined the Kansas Region in 1971. He immediately became involved in his Region's planning, serving as the Regional Executive in 1974. In 1976, Entriken became a member of the Wichita Region and was one of the founding members of the Salina Region in 1990.

Entriken was assigned to cover the inaugural Solo Nationals in 1973 for SCCA's *SportsCar* magazine. He has competed in all 49 of the Solo National Championships, and covered all but one year for the magazine (the year he was the Nationals event Chair, 1975). His *Solo Stats* book, compiled annually, features the driving record of every competitor who has ever participated at the Solo Nationals and is considered the bible of Solo Nationals statistics.



Devin Fortkamp photo

In his career, Entriken has won the Solo Cup (1981), the England-Stipe Award as Midwest Division's top honor (1989), the Vern Jacques Award for contributions to *SportsCar* (1998), a Solo 1 National Championship (1985), and multiple Midwest Division Solo Championships. In 2016, Entriken was honored with the Dick Berger Perseverance Award, presented in his case for his continued support of the Solo National Championships. He was also the first recipient of the Dave and Jo Richards Award, established in 2019 as Salina Region's highest honor.

From The Garage automotive museum in Salina, Entriken reminisced about his involvement with the Club and commented on his induction into SCCA's Hall of Fame: "I am very aware that the SCCA Hall of Fame includes many immortal drivers, but my inclusion in this august group has almost nothing to do with my talent behind the wheel. It's mostly for my prowess behind a keyboard. But for me, this has been part of my fun with cars.

"It is quite a privilege today to join the Hall of Fame at the same time as some longtime friends," Entriken continued. "It has been a great ride, and I'm not done yet."

# Events

## .... Elsewhere - 2023

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!

‡ = Test & Tune / § = Street Survival School / ♯ Starting Line School

**ALWAYS CONFIRM THE EVENT BEFORE MAKING A LONG TRIP!**

(\* = Salina Region autocross on this date)

### AUTOCROSS

Mar 5.....NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa OK  
 Mar 18.....‡ Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK  
 Mar 19.....\*Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK  
 Mar 25.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 .....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS (Fun Day)  
 Mar 26.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 .....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS  
 Apr 1.....‡ Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Indep. MO  
 .....‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Apr 2.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 .....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Apr 15.....\*NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 Apr 16.....\*NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 Apr 22.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK  
 .....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS (Novice Day)  
 Apr 23.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK  
 .....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS  
 Apr 29.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 Apr 30.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 May 6.....‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 May 7.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 May 20.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS  
 May 21.....Oklahoma @ TBD  
 .....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS  
 May 25-29...ProSolo/Nat'l Tour @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE  
 Jun 3.....\*Oklahoma @ Frederick Airport, Frederick, OK (MirrorCross)  
 Jun 4.....\*Oklahoma @ Frederick Airport, Frederick, OK  
 Jun 17.....♯ Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 Jun 18.....\*Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 .....NeOkla @ Fair Meadows, Tulsa OK  
 Jun 24-25...ProSolo @ Frederick Airport, Frederick, OK  
 Jun 24.....‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Jun 25.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Jul 1.....♯ Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 Jul 2.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 Jul 8.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 .....‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Jul 9.....\*NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 .....\* Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Jul 30.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 Aug 6.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park, Oklahoma City OK  
 Aug 19.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 .....‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Aug 20.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK  
 .....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE  
 Aug 26.....§ Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO  
 .....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS  
 Aug 27.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS



### RALLYCROSS

Feb 26.....‡ Kansas City @ Valley Speedway, Grain Valley MO  
 Mar 5.....Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS  
 Mar 12.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK  
 Mar 26.....Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Weston MO  
 Apr 9.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK  
 .....Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS  
 Apr 16.....\*Kansas City @ Valley Speedway, Grain Valley MO  
 Apr 30.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK  
 May 21.....Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Weston MO  
 May 28.....Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS  
 Jun 11.....Kansas City @ Valley Speedway, Grain Valley MO  
 .....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK  
 Jun 25.....Wichita @ Sandy Bottoms, Mulvane KS  
 Jul 16.....Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Weston MO  
 Jul 23.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK  
 Aug 6.....Kansas City @ Valley Speedway, Grain Valley MO  
 Aug 27.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings, OK

# Go

## Racing!



Five MiDiv 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

Apr 22-23...AVRG @ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, OK  
 May 20-21...KVRG @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 May 27-28...Cont. Divide @ Pueblo Motorsports Park, Pueblo, CO  
 Jul 1-2.....Colorado @ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail CO  
 Jul 15-16...KVRG @ Ozarks int'l Raceway, Gravois Mills, MO  
 Aug 19-20...Colorado @ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail CO  
 Sep 23-Oct 1 . The Runoffs @ VIRginia International Raceway

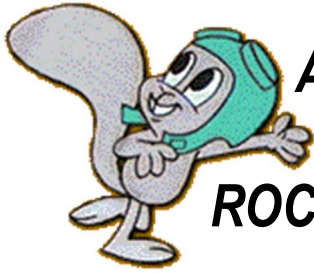
### MIDIV TIME TRIALS SERIES

May 20-21...KVRG @ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 Jul 1-2.....MiDiv @ Brainerd Int'l Raceway, Brainerd, MN  
 Jul 15-16...KVRG @ Ozarks int'l Raceway, Gravois Mills, MO (Nat'l Tour)  
 Aug 12-13...Nebraska/DMV @ Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, NE  
 Sep 16-17...Nebraska/DMV @ Raceway Park o/t Midlands, Pacific Jct. IA  
 Oct 12-15....Time Trials Nationals @ NCM Mspts Park, Bowling Green, KY

### TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

Apr 27.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 May 18.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 May 25.....@ Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Fountain CO  
 Jun 15.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 Jun 22.....@ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail CO  
 Jul 6.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 Jul 17.....@ Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Fountain CO  
 Aug 17.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 Aug 24.....@ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail CO  
 Sep 19.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS  
 Oct 19.....@ Heartland Motorsports Park, Topeka KS





## ASSORTED NUTS FROM ROCKET J. SQUIRREL

—ROCKY ENTRIKEN

When Rich Bireta, the 2022 Woolf Barnato Award winner, was introducing me as the 2023 recipient, he mentioned one of my more obscure claims to fame – I invented the solo pylon rule. But he did so without context and I could hear a nation of autocrossers asking “Whaat??” That happened 48 years ago, and at this point probably 99.8% of active autocrossers have never known anything else.

So there’s a story to be told, and now an occasion to tell it. It wasn’t even something I did with any real intent, but the happy byproduct of what at the time was an effort to fix a more serious issue.

In 1973 St. Louis Region put on the inaugural Solo Nationals at the old Mid-America Raceway in Wentzville, Mo. The “Long Course” ran upstream on the race track from Turn 7 to Turn 1. The Solo Events Board arrived Saturday morning, took one look at the course (slaloms on the straights, open corners) and rejected it, then spent the morning redesigning it (open straights, slaloms in the turns), costing us half a day of a two-day event.

The next year Chicago Region was the host at Lake Geneva Speedway in Wisconsin. Same song, second verse. This time the SEB redesigned the opening section – a good thing as it turned out – to pull it away from a tall concrete wall. It rained, and a couple of cars still found the wall.

Year three was my turn. I was chair of the 1975 event at the site Salina Region now uses for autocross. The host region then was Kansas Region. I was determined the SEB would NOT come in and screw around with our courses on the morning of the event, so I proposed that our course designs would be set up some months ahead (in May, for a championship to run in October). The SEB didn’t like that idea much at first, fearing people would come and practice the courses. But I explained that, at that time, the city of Salina had all of two SCCA members and the other guy was a road racer who could care less. So I swore on the head of my firstborn I would not pre-practice the courses, and the SEB sent a representative to come observe the setup, and tweak anything he felt needed it. The practice quickly became standard procedure.

To ensure the courses approved in May would be the same courses in October, we painted the pylon boxes using 2” paint rollers and gallons of red barn paint on the assumption it would hold up for the next five months (the red boxes were still there when the Nationals returned to Salina after five years!).

So now I had these 2” red pylon boxes all over the place

and realized I had a tool to resolve the incessant dispute – did the car hit the cone or not? Back then the prevailing rule was if you just touched the cone, you caught the penalty. HIT the cone? Tagged it even a little bit? Did it wobble? Or was it the blowback from the side pipes? Or was it a windy day?

At Wentzville, the pylon penalty was 2 sec on the long course, 1 sec on the short course. Lake Geneva just had the one course, 2 sec per cone. Other local events around the country all had whatever local rules were. How about 1 sec for the first cone, 2 for the next one, 4 for the next? Yow!

So I decided I didn’t care to argue if a car kissed a cone, only where the cone ended up after the car had gone by. No more watching for the wobble, just the solid result. I used

that 2 inches of barn red to create a penalty zone – as long as the cone was *completely within the outer edge of that box*, even if a little bit cockeyed: No Penalty. Corner workers no longer had to watch as the car passed by, only look to see if the cone was still within the box.

While I got some pushback from the SEB on my pylon rule, there was nothing in the rulebook. Pylon penalty was something then found in the event’s supplemental regs. Afterwards, the SEB decided they liked it and they put it in the rulebook.

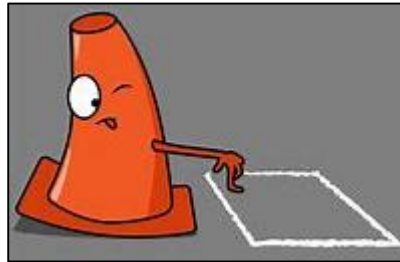
Only they got it wrong. LOL.

When the rule appeared in the rulebook, they made it read that if *any part of the cone* was within the 2” box it was no penalty. Where I had given drivers a 2” fudge factor, the SEB turned it into a 14” fudge factor.

But y’know what? It didn’t matter. The rule worked either way. It is a perfect example of one of my SCCA mantras: *It doesn’t matter what the rules are, it only matters that there are rules*. The magic lay in getting rid of a practice that was a judgment call and replacing it with a consistent objective model.

When the SCCA adopted my pylon rule, albeit with their variant, they nonetheless kept the least important aspect for almost 40 years – the 2” box. That was just a consequence of the paint roller, but it was the mid 20-teens before the rule wording changed to just “a box” around the cone.

And a postscript. I would not want to leave the impression that St. Louis and Chicago messed things up and my Kansas Region fixed everything. Those Nationals of the ’70s were a series of learning experiences. We fixed St. Louis’s and Chicago’s problems (many of them anyway) and sent several of our own to Ohio Valley to fix in 1976. They created new issues for Texas Region to fix in ’77, and Texas had issues Wichita Region addressed in ’78. Lurking in the background was San Francisco Region constantly observing “that’s not how *WE* do it.” They got their chance in 1983 when Kansas City invited them to co-host a Nationals in Salina. It’s how SCCA learned to conduct a competition that has grown to become the world’s largest sports car championship.



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