

The Write Line

~ January 2024 ~



Mason Libby, AS Saturn Sky Redline (Rocky Entriken Photo)

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

Regional Executive Views

Happy New Year to everyone. I don't know about you, but 2023 went by way too fast. March of last year the region had our first event and I had designed the course with a one cone turn around. I thought I was crazy to do something so simple but everyone seemed to like it. Felt like it was just a few months ago instead of almost a year ago.

I would like to acknowledge last year's board members and at-large members for your dedication to the region and going above and beyond. Like I have said, it takes everyone and more to make things function. Thank you for a great year.

Keep reading and check out the new board members in the roster on Page 2, and congratulations. It's always nice to have some new members join which creates different ideas from anything to help out with the region to great ideas for courses. Another good example was the 2022 region championship awards. They were a huge hit with Kale creating a personalized picture other than the traditional trophy.

Keep an eye out on the Region's website, Facebook and motorsportsreg.com for the schedule. It is listed on Page 2 but right now it is tentative pending the approval of the City of Salina to avoid any conflicts. Make sure you make it out to the Region's famous events like

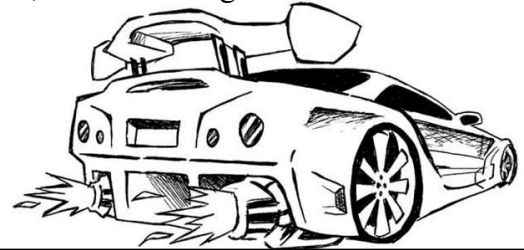
Octoberfast, and Mirror Khana will be back as well. And if approved by the MiDiv Solo Committee, a two-day Divisional Championship event (bonus points!).

Another thing is, you asked, we listened and now we are taking action. We always have an event right after the Solo Nationals and has been just a one-day (Sunday) event. We are now going to do a double Saturday and Sunday event for the weekend following the Nationals. It was great to see drivers that were able to stop by after Nationals on their way home and make it a multi-region memorable event.

Life does not slow down and that is exactly how my personal life is going. Just have to take control and try my best. Nothing crazy for the All-Trac this year other than maintenance. A few trips planned this year already but shouldn't interfere with the events that are scheduled.

I hope everyone is having a good start to their New Year. Keep an eye out for the banquet information once things get confirmed. Thanks.

—Andlee, RE Salina Region



NOTE: There was not a December 2023 issue of *The Write Line*



Next
Business Meeting

TBA

On Zoom!

(Or maybe at the banquet)
Business meetings are open to all members.

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



Board Members ~ 2024

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Salina Region Schedule ~ 2024

All events at Berkley Family Recreational Area unless noted otherwise

<u>Event</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Mar 16 – Test & Tune	
Mar 17 – Solo #1	
Apr 19-20-21 – Evolution Performance Driving Schools	Rocky Entriken
Apr 20 – Novice event	
Apr 21 – Solo #2	
May 11 – Solo #3 (Saturday)	
Jun 1-2 – Solo #4 & 5 – Divisional Championship	
Jun 15 – Solo #6 (Saturday)	
Jul 7 – Solo #7 – Sunflower Showdown @ Yoder	Wichita Region
Aug 11 – Solo #8 – Sunflower Showdown @ Salina	
Sep 7 – Solo #9	
Sep 8 – Solo #10	
Oct 13– Solo #11 – Octoberfast 35	Salina Region Board
Nov 13 – Solo #12	

Want to chair an event this year? Contact Phelan Gagnon, Solo Chair.

A Salina Divisional (if held) and Solo Nationals (Sep. 2-6, 2024) 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)~~
- ~~July 22-23 – Arkansas @ Stuttgart (Stuttgart Airport)~~
- ~~Aug 5-6 – Nebraska @ Lincoln (Lincoln Airpark)~~

SCCA Solo Nationals ~ Sep. 2-6, 2024 ~ Lincoln, NE

MEETING MINUTES

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

The January 4, 2024, Salina Region SCCA Board of Directors meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order at 7:04 pm by Past RE Monte Rans. Also In attendance were Henry & Sharon Brillhart, Chandler Brown, Justin Gagna, Phelan Gagnon, Mason Libby, Aaron Loggan, Kale Morris, Andlee Phengphachanh, Dennis & Nancy Smith.

Minutes – Sharon motion to approve November minutes as written, Dennis seconded. Passed

Treasurers Report – Overview given by Sharon. Chandler moved to approve as presented. Dennis seconded. Passed.

Old Business – Banquet – Kale suggested going to The District at Lunch (when they aren't as busy) and request karts allocated to us for a period of time (at full speed). Tentatively aiming for February 10 at noon. Kale will reach out to them to try to make arrangements..

Fire Extinguishers – Rocky will take care of that in the near future.

Cones – Working on coordination with Wichita Region.

Antenna adapter & replacement battery for finish timer – Andlee purchased new antenna adapter and we have a Li-Po battery available finish line timer.

Chandler mentioned that backup computer has upgraded ram and working with his live timing server. Currently has main computer and will complete ram upgrade and live timing setup prior to first event.

New Business – 2024 BOD election results – Regional Executive, Andlee Phengphachanh; Assistant R.E., Mason Libby; Secretary, Chandler Brown. Appointed required board members: Treasurer, Sharon Brillhart; Solo Co-Chairs, Phelan Gagnon (primary) and Kale Morris (backup). Members At Large: Chief Registrar, Nancy Smith; Equipment Manager, Justin Gagna; Chief of Tech, ▶▶▶ Continued to Page 3

Life Is Good When You're Learning

By J.G. Pasterjak

Grassroots Motorsports, May 2019

Not too long ago, I attended a two-day Advanced Competition school put on by the recently reborn Skip Barber Racing School at Sebring International Raceway. The whole experience kind of jumpstarted the idea for this column, which is how fun and rewarding it is to learn stuff.

First, I'll say that although I get a healthy amount of seat time, it wasn't long after our two-day school started that I realized that pure seat time is no substitute for proper coaching and feedback time. Modern data gathering and analysis systems make it easy to get plenty of objective feedback during your track time, but ultimately there's no

substitute for the accountability provided by another human standing there telling you what you did right or wrong.

You can't have a discussion with a data acquisition system, and although the data is accurate, it can also be difficult to contextualize without the input of another driver who has done the same thing you're trying to do, only better.

So, going to an honest-to-goodness racing school – my first in more than a decade – felt like a lot of payoff in the education department. The structured, repetitive approach, with constant and specific feedback, was far more valuable than simply turning laps and looking at graphs afterward. It let me focus on specific skills and techniques in an environment where there was no pressure from clocks or competition.

So that's one reward of education: You just end up better at stuff. But there are other benefits as well, not the least of which is the people you get to meet on the journey to greater knowledge.

Look, if someone's teaching you something, chances are they know more about that thing than you, right? I find people who know a lot to be fascinating characters to begin with, and what a bonus when you get to sponge a little knowledge off them. And one day, you might be lucky enough to have someone whose career you've admired share some of their precious brain with you.

Two of my instructors at this particular Skip Barber school were Bruce MacInnes and Terry Earwood, cats that I'd be excited just to hang out with for a little while. Bruce made a name for himself in the later, single-seat days of the Can-Am series, when the cars were barely disguised F5000 monsters sporting full bodywork and setting outright lap records at many of the circuits they visited. Bruce has driven stuff so fast he's probably traveled back in time a little bit.

And having Terry Earwood give you Sebring pointers? I mean, come on. The road that leads into the track is named after his family. If that doesn't give a guy some credibility, I don't know what does.

Anyway, the point is this: Learning from experts exposes you not only to amazing information, but likely amazing people, too. And I'd like to think it's one of my goals to expose myself to as many amazing people as I can whenever I have the chance. That sort of came out wrong, but you get the idea.

Then there's the sheer, selfish thrill of new knowledge and newly acquired skills. The feeling that you possess some ability or information that you didn't have, possibly even a few minutes

prior, is a powerful and satisfying feeling. When you're conscious of that moment of discovery or breakthrough, there's a few better highs.

I remember the first time I went over the bypass at Thunderhill at 10/10ths – a blind, cresting leap into a quick right-hand turn. You need to begin your direction adjustment before the top of the hill, which means you need to commit before you can really see anything. And when you do it quickly enough, there are a few precious moments when the car is unweighted enough that you really can't make any meaningful directional adjustments until the car settles back down perilously close to the corner entry. So, you need to take this leap of faith on the near side of the crest, hoping your muscle memory and

track knowledge sets you down on the correct line on the far side.

And that first time you get it right? Magic.

And the most magical part about it? That feeling that even though you just did something for the first time, and it was hard, and took skill, courage and faith, there was also this feeling that one day you'll have done it enough times that it will be mundane. Ordinary. Dare I say easy. Knowing you just took the first step on that path is pretty powerful.

I never intend to lose that thrill of discovery and learning, and that Skippy school really reminded me how satisfying and reinvigorating the process of discovery is. I challenge you, gentle reader, to never stop seeking knowledge. I guarantee it's worth the effort, and I can't wait to hear about the latest thing you learned.

MEETING MINUTES

Continued from Page 2 ▶▶▶ Henry Brillhart; ^{Chief} of Timing, Aaron Loggan; Social Media/Facebook, Artt Mann. The webmaster position is open, but Jason Rash will continue to help out in the interim.

The 2024 schedule is confirmed (Posted in Page 2)

Taxes, board members and bylaws submitted to SCCA. Sharon has already filed federal taxes, hasn't completed state yet. Minor updates to bylaws (if any) to be submitted to SCCA.

City of Salina scheduling. - Ready for scheduling 2025 events with the city.

Open Forum – Dennis suggested donating old PA system and old radios (some may need repair) to K-State or McPherson College. Board agreed.

Dennis has about six rolls of cable plus some shorter cables from the old timing system (still used during Evo school). Thinks cable inventory is excessive and would like to get rid of some of it. Chandler suggested tabling discussion until next month.

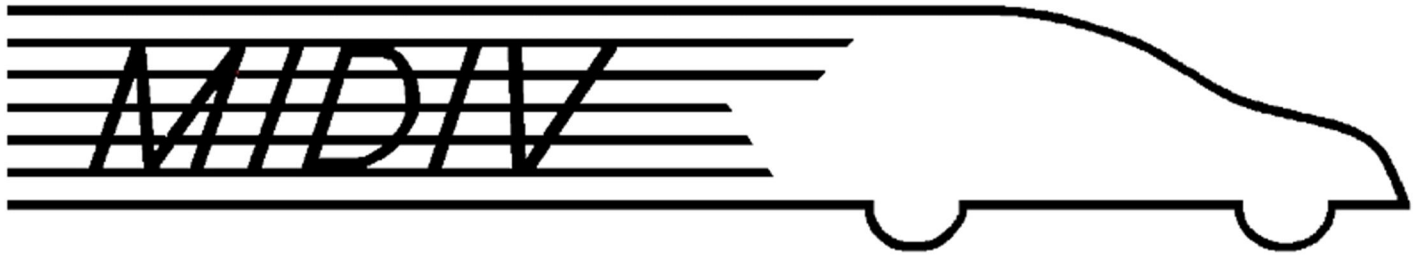
Jaguar timing system – Aaron Loggan will send out details of system. Estimated cost is about \$8,000. Discussion that this was likely outside of our budget and we would continue using existing system for the foreseeable future. Hopefully antenna adapter mentioned previously will help address some of the issues we have been experiencing with the current setup.

Next meeting – TBA, either after banquet or a zoom meeting on another date.

Adjourn 8:16 pm

Submitted – Chandler Brown, Secretary.

Sound good? Our annual Evolution School with national champion caliber instructors is April 19-21. Registration is open now on MotorsportReg.com



2024 MiDiv Convention

Feb 23-25, Topeka KS

HOTEL TOPEKA AT CITY CENTER

Registration is open now

<http://msreg.com/2024midivconvention>

Hotel/room info is in the MSR registration page. You MUST call the hotel to get the group rate.

Event requirements

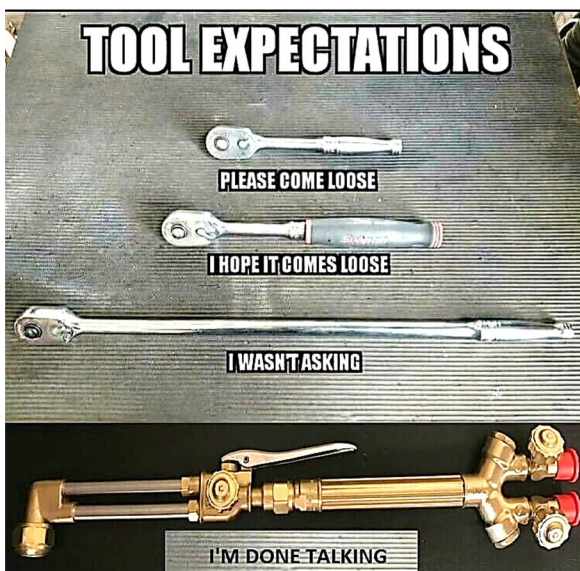
- No experience necessary.
- The Midwest Division needs and wants your input.
- This is an opportunity to express yourself on any and all racing related topics be it Rally, RallyCross, Solo, Time Trials or Club Racing, be the comments good (hopefully) or bad.
- Come and be a bigger part of SCCA and the Midwest Division helping shape the future.
- Expect town halls for all disciplines, sessions for T&S (Orbits and AXWare), MotorsportsReg,
- Some car setup/engine building/suspension type sessions, and more.
- All the info sessions are completely FREE to attend. The banquet is \$30 per person.

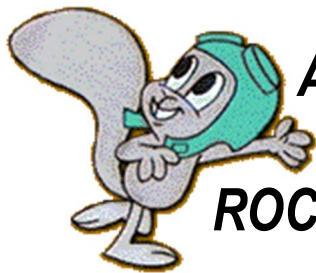
General schedule—

Friday evening: registration, welcome reception

Saturday: Info sessions, Town halls, MiDiv Executive Committee (open), Banquet

Sunday morning: Wrapup sessions, REs meeting.





ASSORTED NUTS FROM ROCKET J. SQUIRREL

—ROCKY ENTRIKEN

Perhaps you found the letter in the adjacent text box in your email last month. Perhaps you just quickly passed it by, deleting it unread along with all the other advertisements, junk mail and assorted spam that fills the mailbox these days. Look again.

I'm already signed up. This is one of the best bargains your SCCA membership provides, the opportunity to be "in the know" about our club, how it functions, and how you can have an even greater effect on it, **FOR FREE!**

I have attended several SCCA conventions pre-pandemic. The first was in 1974 when sweet serendipity dealt me my first SCCA award the year SCCA met in San Francisco, where I grew up and my parents lived. It was surreal riding the #38 Geary St. bus home late at night after the Saturday banquet, a silver goblet on my lap, the Best Story award for a writeup I'd sent to SportsCar on the Lake Afton Grand Prix.

Thing is, that one only cost me a trip back home, and any good excuse to go home really didn't count as a convention expense. I was also the newly elected RE of Kansas Region, and the region even covered the registration fee.

SportsCar also paid my way to several later conventions – Milwaukee, El Paso, Denver – to cover them for the magazine. I rubbed shoulders with some of the storied leaders of the club, folks like Cameron Argetsinger, an early president – and the initial recipient of the Woolf Barnato award (1948), of which I became its most recent honoree at last January's convention. At St. Louis I chatted briefly with Paul Newman and later watched him race tricycles with Bob Tullius around the hotel's elevator pylon.

But the real value of the convention is learning about the broad reach this club has and which any member can enjoy to whatever extent he chooses.

I think it was 1982 or thereabouts, when a couple of bad autocrossing mishaps spurred the club to institute a Solo Safety Steward program. The first SSS training seminar

was held at that year's convention, led by Marc Gerstein (2003 Barnato recipient), and I became one of the earliest to earn an SSS license, which I held for some 18 years. Before attending that convention I had no idea such a program was in the works. Being there was the opportunity to become part of a new direction taken by SCCA solo.

But the convention got costly. In the neighborhood of \$250 for the registration fee, which at least covered the lunches and banquets. The hotel for four days ran that much or more (one year I stayed at a less costly hostelry a few blocks away). As a result, I mostly quit going. One year, it was in Kansas City, Sandy and I day-tripped it and

sneaked in so she could pick up an award she'd won for editing *The Write Line* (top small region newsletter).

And then the pandemic happened. One silver lining to that plague was SCCA's decision to have a virtual convention online. Several beneficial things resulted from that, not the least of which being that it was FREE! All you had to do was sign up.

Another is that it was longer, a week plus, which meant they could cram in more content.

The typical face-to-face convention would bring in 350-400 people, mostly the "usual suspects" among the club's leaders (and more well-heeled members). The virtual convention tapped 1000 participants. Being free brings in people who can't afford the cost in time and/or money.

So, yes! Register for the 2024 SCCA National Convention. You might find a dozen sessions of

interest, or maybe only one or two. The convention schedule was just posted and 11 sessions focus on Solo/RallyCross alone! That's the joy of this virtual gathering. Do as much or as little as tickles your fancy. Same price. **FREE!**

Check the schedule of events and tune in to whatever interests you. You want to focus on solo? You'll have several opportunities. How about region leadership? That's always a favorite topic. Road Rally? Time Trials? What's that all about? Find out. You can bet there'll be discussion on SCCA's latest invention, Club Spec.

Many of the sessions are interactive, a Zoom meeting with members nationwide. Chime in!

You can find a link to register on the home page of scca.com. Don't be dissuaded by the button that says "Purchase Tickets." Click it. The purchase price is **FREE!**

Dear Rocky,

We would like to formally invite you to register for the 2024 SCCA National Convention which will be held virtually January 18-26, 2024.

Building upon the success of last year's theme of "Engage," the 2024 SCCA National Convention takes a natural progression to the theme of "Grow."

This year's Convention aims to harness the enthusiasm and connections forged in previous years to foster personal and collective growth within the SCCA community.

In addition to embracing the theme of "Grow," the 2024 SCCA National Convention also holds special significance as we celebrate the Club's 80th birthday. This milestone anniversary provides a momentous occasion to reflect on the rich heritage and accomplishments of the SCCA throughout eight decades of motorsports excellence.

FREE and open to any member with a passion for moving the Club forward, the Convention is specifically designed for the Club's current and next-generation leaders to learn what's new and what's needed for our Club to thrive as we engage with members old and new.

We hope to see you there!

—Abby Scher & Chris Robbins
Region Development Team!

••• JOIN the Sports Car Club of America •••

IT'S EASY. GO TO www.scca.com AND CLICK ON JOIN SCCA TODAY!

National membership 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 (free) and Weekend (\$15) Memberships. Questions? Call Salina Region membership chair Rocky Entriiken 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. Any 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 and children age 20 and younger).
- 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.
- Mailed subscriptions are available to non-members, \$15 for the calendar year.

E-mail or U.S. Mail?

If you received the e-mail version but would prefer to receive *The Write Line* by mail, just send a message to the editor (rocky@spitfire4.com, or 2731 Scott, Salina Ks. 67401) and we'll keep you on the snail-mail list. Likewise, if we sent you the mailed version but the e-mail copy (in color!) would better meet your preferences, just say so.



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