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## Information for Area 4 Members - December, 2012

Dear Area 4 Members,

It has been another busy month. It started with the December BOD meeting at the PRI show in Orlando; no time for relaxation there as the schedule was full of action items. Here is Newsletter Number 8 with more of the details:

### The "Majors"

The Majors schedule was presented at the PRI Show. I was surprised, like many of you, to see the race at Gateway listed as one of the Northern Conference points events. In discussions with Butch and Terry, they needed one more event to round out the Northern schedule. And since CenDiv will only have a single race at the June Sprints as part of the Majors (Great Lakes Division will have three Double race weekends), they needed one more event to complete the schedule. In reality, I don't think Gateway will impact us at all. I see most of the CenDiv racers joining us at Mid-Ohio, Michigan International Speedway, and GingerMan Raceway rather than haul down to Gateway. We expected some anomalies in 2013 as National racing transitions to the Majors. By 2014, things should settle in.

### GT-2

By now, the new GT-2 specifications will have been published. This was a well thought out and comprehensive document presented to the BOD by the CRB to incorporate more cars into this class. While I agreed with almost everything in this plan, there was a restrictor plate specification that was directed at the Sunbeam Tiger that looked suspect. A call to Sunbeam Tiger racers in GLD confirmed this part of the GT-2 plan would not benefit our members and I voted against it. Although the GT-2 Plan passed the BOD, I have asked the CRB to look at the Sunbeam specification line again. They will. Just a reminder, as your Director, I represent you. If you have issue with anything the club is doing, my door is open to help you.

### Insurance

You will see a Press Release in the next day or so, detailing the impact of the new SCCA Insurance Package. We have been successful in reducing our costs while maintaining better coverage than any of our competitors. The new rates will save our Regions per event from \$1000 (75 car event) to \$2800 (300 car event). The savings will not be just for road racing, but will apply for all of our speed events. And, the fees will not be due until 14 days after the event, thus helping the Region's cash flow. The insurance committee was made up of SCCA members who had a strong background in the insurance industry. As such, they knew how to go to market and obtain the best value. Engaging the expertise among our membership was a smart play, and will be used again in the future.

### SportsCar Magazine

As you have noticed with your January issue, the look and feel of *Sportscar* has changed. Paul Pfanner is now the Publisher. His company also publishes *Racer* magazine. We are in the last year of our contract with Pfanner. They proposed some changes to the magazine back in October and the BOD asked if they would make some of these changes now so we could gauge member reaction. Let us know what you think. Negotiations with Pfanner are ongoing, but we are also looking at all our options.

### New SCCA Officers

The BOD has elected Lisa Noble to be the new Chairman of the Board for 2013. She replaces Jerry Wannarka who did a terrific job for the club, but did not seek re-election. Dick Patullo was elected Vice Chairman. Lisa and Dick are excellent choices to lead the club. Both are experienced, smart and dedicated.

I will again be part of the Planning Committee and the Compensation Committee and the liaison to the RallyCross Board. It should be a very good 2013.

### **Strategic Plan (STRAP)**

This is developing nicely. We have already accomplished some of the initial STAP items. That is the beauty of using this type of short to medium term working document. New items have been added. You will see this material presented at the National Convention.

### **Michigan International Speedway**

There are a couple of small items to complete at MIS before we get our final approval from the SCCA national office. We do not anticipate any problems. The folks at MIS have been wonderful to work with and we look forward to our Majors Double there over Memorial weekend in 2013. Thanks again to all who made this possible - Verne Wandell, Dan and Tara Hodge, Andy and Sue Welden, Terry and Ed Ozment, Dayle Frame and, of course, the members of the Western Michigan Region.

### **Bluegrass Motorsports Park**

We are talking every week with the owners and others who want the SCCA to join them in a consortium of owners. All I can say is that there is progress.

### **What I Have Learned**

My first year on the BOD has been enlightening. It is amazing how much time this job takes - meetings, conference calls, and just plain research and preparation to be able to discuss/consider ideas. It is also amazing how much information flows across the desk that is actionable, but sensitive, and thus must be held confidentially until the time is right to release it. I am always conflicted on your right to know vs. the need for proper vetting and dissemination of club information. Normally, we need to wait until FasTrack is published with the Minutes of the BOD meeting, or wait until a Press Release before I can divulge detailed information.

Just like this Newsletter. There are 10 more items that probably merit some discussion, but they will have to wait until they work their way through various levels of the club. It is frustrating, but necessary.

Many times, if you have something specific you wish to know, I probably already have some insight to share. So, as always, if you need any assistance, let me know how I can help.

Yours for a better SCCA,

*Steve*