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Information for Area 4 Members – June, 2013

Dear Area 4 Members,

We just completed the June Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in Topeka. Here are some items of interest:

Solo Stock Category Proposed Rules Changes

Whenever change is proposed, we can expect to receive letters expressing the viewpoints of our members. When you take a rule set that has been largely untouched for 40 years and propose changing it, well, let's just say our members are passionate about the sport. Entries in the Stock Category have been dropping since 2007. To revitalize this, the Solo Events Board (SEB) originally proposed 36 changes to improve competition. From the BOD perspective, we must ensure our rules making processes are being followed. Our processes are designed to support the will of our members. If you are active in the Stock Category and have an opinion about the proposed rule changes, let the SEB hear from you. The BOD has not approved any changes yet, so you have time to let your thoughts be known.

Rally Cross Board (RXB)

Ken Cashion has done a terrific job as Chairman of the RXB. Unfortunately, he tendered his resignation recently due to real life (non-SCCA) issues. After considerable vetting of all options, the BOD voted to appoint current RXB member Warren Elliott as Chairman of the RXB and named current RXB member Stephen Hyatt as Vice Chairman. We have also appointed Keith Lightfoot (Colorado Region) as a new member of the RXB replacing Ken.

Club Racing News – The Runoffs

The BOD was briefed on potential venues for the Runoffs. After considerable discussion, the sites were approved and the Club Racing Department will go forward and complete all the contractual details. We will then be able to announce the upcoming locations. This should happen fairly quick, so watch the SCCA website for this important announcement.

Club Racing News – The Majors

Our first two Majors events, MIS and Mid-Ohio, are in the bag. We have learned a great deal about schedules and the ability to adapt, improvise and overcome. The lack of curbs at MIS caused delays for cleanup between every session, while the huge accident Saturday at Mid-Ohio caused a 6 hour "lunch" while track repairs were made. The curbs will be added before our 2014 race, while the participants in Saturday's scary incident have promised never to repeat their performance <g>. Thank you to all who participated in these events. Car counts were decent for both and the weather was exceptional. Now, if we can pull off the trifecta with our July 13-14 race at GingerMan, we will be pleased.

On a related note, as the Majors are supposed to be our premium racing experience, the BOD discussed ideas to make the Volunteer experience better. There are a number of initiatives in the works which we will soon announce.

Other Stuff

As always, there are many topics that are discussed and reviewed by the BOD. Most of the action items will need to wait until they are officially announced by the SCCA staff or in FasTrack. Items in progress include:

- Contract for *Sportscar* magazine
- Exciting news about our National Convention.
- Strategic Plan (STRAP) update and review

Region Development – Website Hosting

The BOD was briefed on the Region website template. We had a chance to see how this product goes together. The content is looking good. We are pressing the Topeka staff to prioritize this as get it into the hands of our Regions and Divisions as soon as possible. The good news is that the product is relatively easy for a novice to become the Region webmaster with a minimum of training. Look for this soon.

Region Development – New Member’s Package

One of the areas we are working on with “branding” is the introduction a new member receives when joining the club. Currently, he/she receives a bunch of different materials, none of which go together or even look like they were developed in the same decade! That will change. Our Marketing consultants, Trozzolo Communications Group, introduced a slick new member package that we will adopt for the future. It contains the membership card along with coordinated materials to introduce all aspects of SCCA activities. You would be proud to have a new member receive this. Again, we are moving quickly to make these packages available ASAP.

Great Lakes Division, Inc.

GLD, Inc. is looking for officers for the 2014 season. Please contact Steve Kammeyer if you are an RE and would like to serve your Division. GLD, Inc. has been having conference calls to take care of business. The next call will be June 17th at 8:00 PM. If you are the RE of your Region, you should be on this call.

Bluegrass Motorsports Park

Still talking – nothing to report.

John “JP” Peterson

I have saved this one for last. Most of you know that JP passed away Saturday night, Memorial Day weekend, during our Majors event at MIS. John was a dear friend to many of us, a leader of our Division, and a guy who would do anything to help the club without ever craving the credit or spotlight he deserved. He will be missed. We are planning a memorial service in JP’s honor at the Cincy Region’s IT ‘Spectacular event at Mid-Ohio August 10th. Executive Steward Dan Hodge, Deputy Executive Steward Andy Welden, Cincy’s Todd Cholmondeley, OVR’s Jude Summers and I are planning this tribute. You are invited to take part; details will follow in July.

As always, let me know if there is anything you need.

Yours for a better SCCA,

Steve