

Steve Harris
Director – Area 4
Great Lakes Division
937 438 3005 (O); 937 681 4484 (C)
sharris@rixan.com



Information for Area 4 Members

March 12, 2012

Hello Area 4 Members,

I just returned from the SCCA National Convention. While it was only 3 days for most attendees, it was 7 days for members of the BOD Planning Committee, most of it in hotel meeting rooms. There is much to tell so here goes.

Reunification of Central Division

Last month, I conducted a Straw Pole among Great Lakes Division RE's, newsletter editors, and other leaders of the Division. The questions was "Should we reunite Area 4 (Great Lakes Division) and Area 5 (Central Division)?" The results:

56% For
26% Against
17% Ambivalent

At the same time, a poll was taken in Area 5. The result of that poll was 70% against. And that kills this discussion for now. Area 5 Director Bob Lybarger and I continue to discuss the matter, but without buy-in from Area 5, we can go no further. It takes two to dance.

There is some discussion among the BOD about gerrymandering parts of NeDiv such that western Pennsylvania would become part of GLD. I spoke with some attendees from Steel Cities and Mahoning Valley regions at the convention and they liked the idea. It would also add BeaveRun to our racetracks. Don't get too excited as this is just "beer talk" right now.

The BOD is engaged with determining who GLD would be paired with as the Majors are deployed. The favorite is Central Division. So reunified or not, we may find ourselves clustered with CenDiv anyway. The other possibility is NeDiv, but the numbers are not lining up well in terms of distribution of drivers for given classes.

Bluegrass Motorsports Park

While at the Convention, I received a call from Brad Poppell at BMPS. Brad says the lawsuit holding up construction at the track has been settled in their favor (yeah!). Work is about to resume. We agreed to meet in about 60 days to discuss the SCCA's potential ownership position. This is great news for our Kentucky Regions, Cincy Region, WOR, and even Indy Region.

Convention – BOD

My convention started Monday night with meetings by the BOD Planning Committee. As expected, we devoted quite a bit of time to a rollout of the Majors, the change in the Runoffs format, and the realignment of classes. The BOD meetings, which began Wednesday, considered all the items you will read about in FasTrack. There were many reports from all the various committees, staff and program boards. I made a presentation of a new business model that would have great appeal to a younger demographic, while providing the SCCA with excellent public relations. It was received well. Of particular interest was consideration of a tiered membership program which would cut the cost of membership for many members. The full impact of this concept will be vetted by the staff and we will decide later this year if the program has merit.

This BOD is good. As a group, they listen and are not afraid to make the bold moves necessary to improve our club. And, my fellow members are committed like I am to a rules season and a reduction of National classes.

SOLO

One of the goals to improve our Solo Program was to fully integrate scheduling and information dissemination through the same channels as our Club Racing program. We are working to use the GLD website as the central point for posting and receiving Solo information. Our webmaster, Dayle Frame, is on-board with this idea and we will make it happen. We will also discuss revamping the layout of the website with Bob Burns to make it easier to use. We had a number of very productive meetings at the Convention with RE's of predominantly Solo Regions. Thank you all for your input and ideas

Convention Part II – GLD Shines!

It was nice to see so many Great Lakes Division members at the National Convention. And it was especially nice to see the haul of awards and trophies garnered by our members. Here are some of the awards (with apologies if I missed you or your Region, and not including any racing award winners):

- Con Peplowski (NeOhio Region) – John McGill Award, Lifetime Achievement
- Gene Henderson (Detroit Region) – Hall of Fame
- Dr. Jim Butler (Southern Indiana Region) – George Snively Award, Motorsports Safety
- Bob Smith (Ohio Valley Region) – Rich Shafer Award, Time Trial Participant of the Year
- Steve Harris (Western Ohio Region) – David Morrell Award, Stewarding
- Julia Aebersold (Kentucky Region) – Membership Recruitment Award + tires!
- David Santel (Cincinnati Region) – Regional Executive of the Year
- Roger Brown (River Cities Region) – Honorable Mention RE of the Year
- Lewis Cooper III (Detroit Region) – Tom McKean Award, Sportsmanship
- Detroit Region – Rally Regional Achievement Award
- River Cities Region – Tom Burke Award for Regional Growth, small Regions
- Cincinnati Region – Tom Burke award for Regional Growth, medium Regions
- Detroit Region – Regional Excellence Award, jumbo Regions

Rally and Rally Cross (RallyX)

As a BOD liaison to Rally and RallyX this year, I attended their Town Hall sessions at the Convention. One of the cool things introduced was an app called "Richta" developed by members of the Road Rally Board. It is available as a free version in the Android market along with a \$3 version and \$10 version. The Apple app is \$3. It is easy to use and would make a rally much more fun. Check it out.

The RallyX Board was busy evolving their rules and the book is getting heavier. This is a healthy sign that more people are entering the sport with new cars and thus, new regulations. I am very excited to take part in my first RallyX this summer. If you haven't tried it, this is another program worth looking into.

Time Trial

As shown above, Bob Smith from OVR was named the 2011 Rich Shafer Award winner as National TT Participant of the Year. The meetings at the convention with the TTAC Board went very well. The BOD has tasked TTAC with expanding their programs including PDX and Hill Climb events. There was a flyer in the Convention baggies advertising Time Trial events; a good first step to letting our members know about the advantages of adding such events to the Region's programs.

Please let me know how I can help you.

Yours for a better SCCA,

Steve