

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, 2013

Dear Area 4 Members,

It has been an insane month of activities, including a BOD Planning Committee meeting in Colorado Springs, CO in mid-February and followed a few weeks later by the SCCA National Convention. This Newsletter will border on News overload, so let's get right to it.

### Solo Divisional Steward

I am very pleased to announce that Ray Jason, from the Detroit Region, was nominated and approved by the BOD to be the Great Lakes Division Solo Steward. This is a very important post that will help organize all Solo activities within the Division. Congratulations Ray! It is nice to have you on board.

### National Convention Awards

Great Lakes Division members continue to be among the most active and productive club members. Our activity does not go unrecognized. Here are some of the major awards won by our members and presented at the National Convention:

<b>Detroit Region</b> .....	Region of the Year
<b>Detroit Region</b> .....	Region Achievement Award, 1 <sup>st</sup> Place, Jumbo Regions
<b>South Bend Region</b> .....	Region Achievement Award, Hon. Mention, Medium Regions
<b>Cincinnati Region</b> .....	Time Trials, Event of the Year
<b>Northwest Ohio Region</b> .....	Solo, Region Cup Award, Medium Regions
<b>Detroit Region</b> .....	Road Rally, Regional Achievement Award
<b>Great Lakes Division</b> .....	Road Rally, Divisional Achievement Award
<b>Ed Hosni, Detroit Region</b> .....	Club Racing, Kimberly Cup (Most Improved)
<b>Marcus Merideth, Detroit Region</b> .....	Solo Cup
<b>Clemens Berger, Indy Region</b> .....	Solo Triad Award and Lifetime Membership drawing winner
<b>Mary Shiloff, Detroit Region</b> .....	Member of Excellence
<b>Raleigh Boreen, Indy Region</b> .....	Woolf Barnato Award
<b>Bobby Rahal, Ohio Valley Region</b> .....	Hall of Fame

My apologies if I missed anyone. Let me know and we'll give you a special call out next Newsletter.

### March BOD Meeting

This meeting was loaded with Agenda items. Here are some of the highlights:

- Reviewed potential future Runoffs sites
- Decided path to Runoffs for 2014 and points structure for 2014
- Reviewed results of the "Majors" so far; reviewed cost to launch "Majors"
- Added two members to the CRB; changed Ops Manual as required
- Reviewed financials; we beat our planned loss due to excellent investing of reserve funds
- Met with all Program boards;
- Coordination of Strategic Plan
- Reviewed BTE (Barriers to Entry) Committee Progress
- Reviewed recommendations of the CRB's SR1 and SR2 Ad Hoc Committees; should see in March FasTrack
- Discussed PDX rules and how to make this program more inviting
- Reviewed Solo "Starting Line" program
- Participated in various Town Hall meetings
- Meet with our Branding/Marketing consultants to decide next phase of this effort.

## **Club Racing News**

*“Majors”* - So far, the early results for the “Majors” have been positive. Events at Sebring in Florida and Auto Club Raceway in California were well ahead of last year’s entries. Of course, the event at COTA in Texas will have over 500 cars this weekend. Our first event at Michigan International Speedway over Memorial Weekend is creating quite a buzz with racers all over the country. I know of several from California who have committed to making the haul. Also, at the National Convention, Central Division has fully committed to the “Majors” for 2014 after very productive meetings with the BOD and Club Racing Staff.

*Regional Racing* – I want to emphasize that Regional racing is still an important component of our programs, as is the form of any Divisional Championship. We will shortly announce a pathway from Regional Racing to the Runoffs, and it will be up to each Division to decide how this will work. This will be obvious once the Press Release is issued.

*SR1 and SR2* – Sports 2000, DSR and CSR drivers take notice; the SR1 and SR2 advisories will be out in the March FasTrack. We have had some very savvy racers and car designers/builders working on this project to save our Sports Racers. The intent is to have this out for discussion now and incorporate it into the 2014 rules.

## **Region Development – Website Hosting**

One of the hot topics for the BOD is Region Development. This includes training for the Regional Executives and officers. But it also includes standardizing and hosting the Regional and Divisional websites. A standard template means a lot when trying to establish a “brand”. We will be rolling out such a template for 10 Regions in 2013 to see how this works. The National office will send content that the Region can choose to use, while the Region can also add their own local information. If this works well, it will be made available to all Regions and Divisions in 2014. There were sessions at the National Convention dedicated to social media and how to connect members. We will try to make some of this portable for more members to see and use.

## **Spring Training**

Don’t forget Spring Training, Saturday March 16, 2013 in Toledo. More info: <http://www.greatlakes-scca.org/node/85> .

## **Great Lakes Division, Inc.**

Thank you to Steve Kammeyer for his diligent work, changing the GLD Inc. By-Laws such that this body can now function. All 19 Regions took part in making this change. GLD Inc. holds our treasury and will take a more active role in organizing the Divisional Race Series and other events in the future. All paperwork is now complete and filed. GLD Inc. will also administrate the Division website, especially once we get a template from the National office. In a perfect world, all of our racing specialties – Club Racing, Solo, PDX, RallyX and Road Rally should all be using this common website to communicate with our members.

## **SCCA Foundation Raffle**

The SCCA Foundation conducts many different programs, including the very popular Street Survival. In the past, they have relied on the generosity of our members and our Regions for their funding. At the Convention, they introduced a raffle to raise funds. A new Mazda or \$18K in cash would be a nice present for someone, and even if you don’t win, the Foundation is a worthy place to support. For more information, see <http://www.sccafoundation.com/raffle/> .

## **Bluegrass Motorsports Park**

There are developments at BMSP. I pitched the SCCA investment in this property to both the Planning Committee and the BOD. Not sure if I mentioned that the SCCA has formed a *Mergers and Acquisitions Committee* consisting of Bill Kephart, Jerry Wannarka, Mike Lewis and me. We are seriously looking at this opportunity and others.

## **Raleigh and Velma Boreen and the Solo Program**

I met with Raleigh and Velma Tuesday morning of the Convention to discuss their new SCCA venture. Specifically, they have been hired to bring organization and support to Regions that desire to improve their Solo program. It sounds like a perfect job to keep Raleigh and Velma from getting bored in retirement, while giving back to the sport. They have already begun to travel, meeting with many Regions and lending their expertise in starting Solo programs and making existing programs better. This was a smart move by our staff and one that will pay dividends in the future.

### **Spring Training, Scheduling and Roundtable**

One of the interesting things Raleigh, Velma and I discussed was the consolidation of Great Lakes Division meetings. It was pointed out that the Roundtable is held right before election of officers for most Regions. It would be better if we could have a meeting AFTER the new officers are elected so that everyone can get to know each other and be more effective. Also, having only one meeting per year would save the Division some costs. The question is whether our scheduling process could be delayed until January. Interesting indeed....we will work on it.

### **R. David Jones**

One surprise agenda item was the resignation of SCCA legend and HOF member, R. David Jones, from the BOD. I have worked with R. David on several levels and most intimately when I chaired the GCR Advisory Committee. There is no one who cares more about our club than R. David. His resignation was very much like that of Pope Benedict XVI, yielding the power to a younger man who could help the club and has more energy. It was a class act; exactly what you would expect from a great member like R. David. Dan Helman, from Houston Region will take his place, representing Area 7. More information can be found here: <http://www.scca.com/news/index.cfm?cid=51342> .

### **Newsletter**

As I mentioned last month, I walk a fine line providing you this information and waiting for the official announcement by the club confirming our activities. Several other Directors have also expressed a desire to issue newsletters to their constituents. Collectively, we have asked the Marketing Staff to provide us approved releases (beyond what you see on the SCCA website) so that we may better keep you informed about key topics.

As always, should you need any assistance, please let me know.

Yours for a better SCCA,

*Steve*