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## Information for Area 4 Members – November, 2014

Dear Area 4 Members,

The Solo National Championships, the RallyX National Championships and the Runoffs™ are all in the rearview mirror and we are now concentrating on the 2015 racing season. I just returned from the fall BOD Meeting in Topeka. There is a ton of news to report, so here we go:

### Track Night in America

Kentucky Region joined the National Office in a new program called "Track Night in America" on Sunday November 2 at the National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park. Seventy-seven (77) drivers participated in this inaugural event. The Starting Line Track School sold out with ten (10) entries and the High Performance Driving Event (HPDE) filled almost every available slot with sixty-seven (67) entries. This is a program designed to attract new racers/members to the SCCA. It also helped Kentucky Region ease into road racing, and helped jumpstart activities at the new track; many thanks to all who made this a fantastic success. TNIA programs are planned all over the country.



### New SCCA Mega Website

After some starts and stops to redesigning a new website, we have hired an outside company to deliver a new "Mega" website. What is a Mega website? Of course you want a place that contains information in an easily accessible form. But, what if you could have additional functions all integrated at one place and on your own page - race registration, member renewals, live race data, etc. plus a page for every Region and every Division, and much more. We "test drove" *SCCAlive* at the Runoffs. I was able to get live streaming video and live multi segment timing on my smart phone. This is going to be huge – a real game changer in how we apply data before, during and after events. Look for the rollout late Q1 of 2015.

### SCCA Cares

As you know, our club is engaged at many levels to use our knowledge and skill for the betterment of youth. We have bundled these efforts into a new program called "SCCA Cares". The components are:

- Kid's Club – online STEM Education Projects/Books/Comics/Branded Merchandise/ Mascots
- Street Survival and other Car Control Programs – Teens/Adults/Seniors
- Formula SAE
- Scholarship Programs

Look for more about this program in the coming months.

### 2014 Runoffs at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

Officially, we had five hundred seventeen (517) entries at this year's Runoffs; one hundred ninety-one (191) of these were first time Runoffs racers. About 60% of the entries were from the West Coast. This was the first time we tried a make this event portable. Yes, there were problems, most notably with parking and the turn 5 paddock; (I even had my rental car towed!). While we will solve these if/when we come back to MRLS, our focus is already on Daytona and making the 2015 Runoffs even better. GLD had a nice contingent of entrants, crew and volunteers at this year's event. It was nice seeing many of you there.

### **Terry Ozment**

After over 10 years of service to the club, my good friend Terry Ozment is stepping down from her position as VP Club Racing. Terry is a tireless worker, intelligent, dedicated, and has been a joy to work with these many years. She says she intends to do some stewarding, so hopefully, we will soon see her again trackside. Please join me in thanking Terry for all she has done for SCCA Club Racing.

### **The Majors**

Deanna Flannigan, Club Racing Manager, has been tapped to manage the Majors program in 2015. There will be 26 Majors races among the now 5 Conferences this year. Working with Area 5 Director Bruce Lindstrand and President Lisa Noble, we were able to make a change in the 2015 Northern Conference schedule to deliver another balanced program of alternating races between Area 4 and Area 5, properly spaced in 2015. Here is a link to the modified Northern Conference Schedule: <http://www.scca.com/clubracing/news.cfm?cid=52113>

### **Solo Rules Changes**

At the October BOD meeting, we considered a comprehensive slate of 36 items recommended by the SEB. While we received a bunch of mail regarding G Prepared, the BOD looked carefully at the participation in this class. Only 4 cars and 6 drivers ran G Prepared at the Solo Nationals. And so, we agreed to the SEB's recommendation to delete GP and redistribute those cars to other classes. Class consolidation means better racing if properly done. As always, that will be the key here as well. All of the other items recommended by the SEB were approved, as well.

### **Club Racing Rules Changes**

Likewise, we also approved a number of changes recommended by the CRB. Of particular significance was GCR 8.3.1.F which now allows a Mechanical Protest 30 minutes *after* any session, but only for cars in Impound. The key here for me was the word "Impound", thus preserving the chain of evidence. We'll see if any unintended consequences appear for this one. As a Steward, I can see some pretty ugly scenarios, but I also see the positive of insuring fair racing.

Also of significance:

GCR 3.1.1.D.2 was modified to add the Area Director(s) to those selecting the Majors Series Chief Steward.

GCR 3.1.1.F.1 + 2 were modified to allow smaller (<100 cars) events to add a Restricted Regional to a Majors weekend.

### **Other Topics Reviewed**

Other notable topics discussed by the BOD included:

- Establishing a more equitable Sanctioning Fee (per driver per weekend?); B+F Committee to recommend in Dec.
- Excellent financial performance of SCCA Enterprises in 2014 and 2015 projections
- Majors Class Accord (aka Concorde Agreement); agreed to move forward on this
- Medical Standards Committee Report
- Ops Manual Updates; spent considerable time on these to reflect actual practices
- Staff Re-organization; President Noble presented
- Governance of SCCA – Are we a business or a club? Is there a better way to manage?
- Excellent presentation by Robert Clarke, President of SCCA Pro, about the levels of car enthusiasts; trying to understand our members and future potential members
- Financial Review – we were about \$250K to the good at the end of August.

### **Upcoming Great Lakes Division Meetings**

- Saturday, Mar. 14, 2015, **Findlay Inn**, Findlay, OH, 8 am to 4 pm, **GLD Spring Training and Roundtable**
- Watch the GLD website <http://www.greatlakes-scca.org> for Registration and additional information.

### **You Get What You Deserve Department**

Thank you for electing me for another 3 year term. By running unopposed, the official vote was 1 – 0. You can blame Dan Hodge for casting the only vote! Seriously, I will do my best to represent your needs and make sure our club keeps getting better. As always, should you need any assistance, please let me know. Email works best and you will get a reply.

Yours for a better SCCA,

*Steve*

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