

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



Information for Area 4 Members – Oct., 2013

Dear Area 4 Members,

The BOD October meeting was a particularly busy and important one. This month's FasTrack shows 32 pages of Minutes with the results of these key decisions (<http://scca.cdn.racersites.com/prod/assets/13-fastrack-nov-BoD.pdf>). It takes an incredible amount of time to understand the issues; I can assure you, no item is taken lightly. Here are some things you need to know:

Departure of President and CEO Jeff Dahnert

Nothing lasts forever. Jeff and the SCCA are amicably parting after some solid work together. I have had the pleasure of working with Jeff during his tenure at SCCA. You could not find a more honest, ethical, dedicated person to head the organization. We thank him for his service to our club. Lisa Noble has resigned as Chairman of the Board and been appointed interim President while we search for a replacement. John Walsh has been elected Chairman of the Board to fill the remainder of Lisa's term. More info here: <http://www.scca.com/news/index.cfm?cid=51655>

Solo Rules Changes

One of the more controversial items we needed to consider was the establishment of a new street tire based category called "Street Category". The current Stock Category will be renamed Street-R Category for 2014, and then be reduced to a single class (SSR) in 2015. So, if you are running on R-Comps, you have a place to play. But outfitting your current Stock Category car with street tires will move you to Street Category where we expect to grow a large competitive field. I supported this move for many reasons – ease of entry for new members, the need to have Stock really be stock and the longer cycle life street tires afford. Granted, R-Comps are probably more fun. But you still can race with them if you wish.

There were many other Solo items considered. The SEB (Solo Events Board) and Chairman Steve Hudson did an excellent job backing their recommendations with facts and statistics on why they believe these changes will benefit the sport; kudos to the SEB and their ad hoc committees for their thorough preparation and planning.

Club Racing Rules Changes

Similarly, there were many rules changes for Club Racing in 2014. The CRB (Club Racing Board) and Chairman Jim Wheeler were also well prepared to support their recommendations. One of the key new ideas adopted was including additional qualified members, in addition to Stewards, to serve on the COA (Court of Appeals). Having served on this Court, it takes common sense and a thorough knowledge of the GCR (General Competition Rules) to be effective. This is not necessarily only a Steward skill set. Many of our drivers have a comprehensive understanding of our rules and would be excellent COA members. If you are interested, let me know.

The GCR has been substantially updated to include the Majors program and all that it entails. There were many members involved in the vetting process. The Book is not perfect, but it will be up to date for 2014.

One of the more controversial issues considered was the inclusion of the F600 cars (motorcycle powered with manual transmission) into the current F500 (snowmobile engines and variable transmission) class. It was decided to combine the classes, but restrict the motorcycle engines to a spec line to prevent them from over-dogging. F500 is healthy and competitive and we wish to keep it that way. F600 should grow quickly and we want to encourage them. Responsible class management will allow both to grow.

The BOD was also petitioned to give GTL a "probationary" year to grow their numbers into a sustainable Majors-eligible class. That is exactly what we effectively did. Hopefully, some of the new builds will make it on track in 2014 and bring their numbers up. Class participation drives class management. It is all about the desire for competition.

Regional and Divisional Website Templates / Webmaster for GLD

The Regional/Divisional Website template is now available. The template is important to unite the various Regional and Divisional websites into a common "brand". If you are interested, let me know and I will connect you to the folks in Topeka that can help launch your program. You will need to commit your Webmaster to some Wordpress training, but I understand it is fairly easy with no programming skills required. BTW – Great Lakes Inc. still seeks a Webmaster for the GLD website. This should be much easier now with the template available. Let me know.

BF Goodrich Tires Worker of the Year

Congratulations to Dr. Karen Crider from Detroit Region. Karen was named Great Lakes Division BFG Worker of the Year at a presentation at this year's Runoffs. Having worked with Karen many times over the past summers, I'd say she was a very deserving recipient. Way to go Doc!

IT Audit of SCCA Home Office

Incidentally, the SCCA hired an outside consultant to review our IT capabilities and processes. The consultant gave us a solid "thumbs up" along with some very good recommendations for the future. We also have an IT Committee made up of members with experience in the IT community to advise us how to stay current with technology.

Great Lakes Scheduling Meeting and Divisional Race Series Review

The Scheduling Meeting, Saturday November 9, 2013 has been expanded to include a review of the 2014 GLD Divisional Championships. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM at my office in Dayton, Ohio. Directions and motel information can be found here: <http://www.rixan.com/ContactUs/FindRixan/tabid/92/Default.aspx>. Each Region is invited to send three representatives to this meeting. Cincinnati Region is handling the Registration for this meeting through MSR. Go here and scroll down to November 9: <http://www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/calendar>

The traditional Roundtable meeting will move to March. All SCCA Groups (Club Racing, Solo, PDX, Club Trial and etc.) along with all Club Racing Specialties will be giving the opportunity to hold meetings/training at Spring Training on March 15, 2014 in Findlay, Ohio.

NCM Motorsports Park

Our audit of The National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, KY has moved to this Saturday, October 28. We will do a first level track review. This looks like a great track, well positioned in GLD. The NCM has invited the SCCA to use the facility and this inspection starts that process. We'll keep you informed.

2014 National Convention

I am repeating this headline because it is important. If you missed the notice, the National Convention moves to Charlotte, NC next year. We are joining forces with National Trade Productions to establish the North American Motorsports Expo as part of our National Convention, March 7 – 9, 2014. Now, you racers have a good reason to attend the National Convention. More info here: <http://www.scca.com/news/index.cfm?cid=51448>

Video – Why We Race

I leave you with a short film by Claudio Giovenzana that was shot at the 2013 Runoffs. It really captures the passion of our sport. Enjoy: <http://vimeo.com/77072338>

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

Yours for a better SCCA,

Steve