

At@Speed

February 2010

Rev It Up

It's time ...

... to get out in the garage, dust off the racing equipment, and get ready for the 2010 racing season.

The road racing season begins with a pre-season annual tech day at New Jersey Motorsports Park 10am on March 6th, followed by our road racing Driver School March 26-28 on NJMP's Lightning track.

The Autocross Winter Series resumes March 6 at NJMP in the Lightning circuit paddock, following a cancellation of the February 6th event due to snow. Evidently the 29+'' of snow made it difficult to see the cones.

Our road rally program also hits the streets on March 27th and 28th with a double-rally weekend, featuring the March Lamb rally starting in Newark, Delaware on the 27th and the Spring Fling rally in Pitman, NJ on the 28th. See inside for more details or visit www.sjr-scca.org and click on the Rally link.

Our road racing driver school on March 27th and 28th is also a great opportunity for you to get involved and gain experience as a race official in one of our specialties. Contact any one of the specialty chiefs inside for more information, and come on out to join us --- if you've been sitting on the sidelines you have no idea what you have been missing.

The driver school weekend will also feature a PDX (Performance Driving Experience) where you can enjoy your street car at speed on a race course in a safe, controlled environment complete with advanced driving instruction.

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*Your Humble Scribe,
Tom Smith
SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net*



Who We Are

Board of Directors

Regional Executive	Jim Tornetta	609 893 5701	re@sjr-scca.org
Assistant R.E.	J.D. King	856 694 5012	assistre@sjr-scca.org
Secretary	Sue King	856 629 4966	secretary@sjr-scca.org
Treasurer	John Borden	856 779 8521	treasurer@sjr-scca.org
Membership	Meg Meyer	609 835 4450	membership@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Bob Childress		Atlarge4@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Mike Allenbaugh		Atlarge2@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Brian Heun	609 926 4842	Atlarge3@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Jim Wakeman	856 228 9249	Atlarge1@sjr-scca.org

Specialty Chiefs

Membership	Meg Meyer	609 835 4450	membership@sjr-scca.org
Licensing	Terry Hanushek		licensing@sjr-scca.org
Merchandise	Jim Tornetta	609 893 5701	
Race Chair	J.D. King	856 694 5012	racechair@sjr-scca.org
Rally Chair	Jim Wakeman	856 228 9249	rallychair@sjr-scca.org
Solo Co-Chair	Ahren Ciotti	609 387 0576	solochair@sjr-scca.org
Solo Co-Chair	Craig Robson	609 926 4842	solochair@sjr-scca.org
Flagging and Communication	Dan Zane	609 351 3973	flagging@sjr-scca.org
Scrutineer	Mike Murphy	610 873 0765	Mmurphy01@verizon.net
Starter	David Teal	610 566 4795	start@sjr-scca.org
Grid	Bill Von Suskil		grid@sjr-scca.org
Pit, Paddock, and Sound	Alex Collins	856 753 9660	
Registration	Val Heun	609 926 4842	registration@sjr-scca.com
Emergency Vehicles	Ray M and Sue Marshall	302 235 1731	ev@sjr-scca.org
Timing and Scoring	Jack Oliver	856 667 2858	timing@sjr-scca.org
Webmaster	Meg Meyer		webmaster@sjr-scca.org

South Jersey Region website: www.sjr-scca.org

New Jersey Road Racing Series: www.njr-rs.com

At Speed: SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net editor Tom Smith

Autocross Corner

The 2009/2010 Winter Series is being held at New Jersey Motorsports Park (NJMP) on the first Saturday of each month, but was hampered in February by the two large snowstorms we enjoyed. February 6th was a snow-out with the storm bringing 30" of snow to the area, and the follow-up storm resulting in a total of nearly 50" in 5 days meant that even the February 13th snow-date had to be cancelled --- there simply wasn't enough snow removal equipment to clear a large enough area of asphalt for the event. Our ice-racing / snow rally program is not yet up and running but if we have another winter like this we could tap into our colleagues in Alaska to learn about how to run such events.

64 entrants took part in the January 2010 event, and there was some seriously quick competition there.

All Autocross results are available at www.sjr-scca.org/solo if you want to get caught up on our autocross events and drivers. You will also find the winter series schedule and link for pre-registration.

The site also includes information that will help anyone interested in trying autocrossing for the first time. Virtually any street car and any driver can have safe fun racing against the clock for bragging rights through a course of cones that challenges driver and car technically.

Rally On

BIG NEWS for Rally participants. March 27th is the March Lamb Road Rally, and March 28th is the Spring Fling Road Rally. Road rallies are held on public roads at legal speeds where novices and experts alike can enjoy the challenges the Rally Master has created amidst a nice weekend drive.

The March Lamb Rally on Saturday March 27, 2010 at 11am is a joint effort of the Brandywine Motorsports Club and our region, and it is the 13th running of the March Lamb. It traverses roads through Cecil County MD, Chester County PA, and New Castle County DE. The registration and start are at the Park N Ride lot just off of the I-95/Route 896 exit, and finishes at Matilda's Restaurant. Please visit the Rally section of www.sjr-scca.org for complete information, links to rally training guides and background, and everything you need to enjoy a great day of motoring, fellowship, and problem solving on regular roads in the comfort of your own street car.

But wait, by the weekend of the March Lamb Spring will have officially sprung and we should have no more than a foot or two of snow left on the ground, right? So let's do ANOTHER rally on Sunday March 28th. The Spring Fling Carl Rally will start and finish at J G Cook's Carolina Blue Restaurant in Pitman NJ, with registration beginning at 10am and first car off at 11:16am.

Our own Jim Wakemen St (jwakemen43@aol.com or 856 228 9249) is a great contact for those interested in road rallies. Thanks to Jim for his tireless efforts (well, when he's out on the road he has tires, but you know what I mean, there was no pun intended) for keeping our rally program vital and available for those who enjoy a nice drive that challenges the intellect.

SJR / NJRRS Banquet and Awards

Photos courtesy of Craig Zane – thanks Craig

Guess what? We had a banquet on January 30th, 2010, in the midst of a 10" snowfall at New Jersey Motorsports Park, and well over 100 people braved the weather to enjoy great food, free Harp on tap, great service, racing fellowship, and our South Jersey Region 2009 awards ceremony alongside the presentation of 2009 New Jersey Road Racing Series championship awards. Held at the Officer's Club at NJMP, inside the paddock of the heroic Thunderbolt racetrack at NJMP, we all had a chance to celebrate a new high-water mark for motorsports in New Jersey.

Check this out --- we have two brand-new world-class road racing tracks in our backyard at NJMP, we have the best leadership, officials, and drivers that anyone could ask for, we had a great 2009 despite the most challenging circumstances imaginable, 2010 is looking awesome including our first 12-hour endurance race on Thunderbolt (!), and 100+ people proved that we're not the Poodle Needlepoint Club (no offense to the inherent beauty of poodles or needlepoint or those who love them) by driving into the center of the storm in Millville, NJ to celebrate motorsports in New Jersey in late January.

Folks abandoned cars as necessary trying to climb the snow covered unplowed bridge into the infield. No worries, motel rooms waited at the track, and the car would be fine where it was until morning if need be.



In addition to the New Jersey Road Racing Series driver champion award presentations, as well as the Solo II Autocross driver champion award presentations, we had other very important achievements to celebrate.

First, we paid our respects to the late Bill Scott, World Champion Formula Vee and Formula Ford driver under whose ownership Summit Point Raceway achieved its greatness, for a life well lived.

Next we honored and remembered Stanley Avis and presented Fay Teal with a copy of the plaque memorializing her father on display at NJMP, and Fay paid respects to long-time region contributors Shirley Brown and Bob Jumper as well.

Our Solo II program recognized Salvatore DiPompo as Driver of the Year, Chris Houliaris as Worker of the Year, and Bryan Singer as Rookie of the Year. Sal earned National Champion honors in the F Modified class at the SCCA Solo Nationals, a huge achievement to celebrate.

The South Jersey Region Worker of the Year Awards went to:

Craig Zane – Flagging and Communication
Lynn Hanushek – Registration
Shirley Zane – Timing and Scoring
Bill VonSuskil – Grid

All of us are grateful for the professionalism, skill, and dedication of all our volunteer race officials as exemplified by these honorees.

The 2009 Regional Executive awards went to Terry Hanushek and Sue King --- truly the driving forces making SCCA road racing possible in our region.

Now, let's step back for a moment. The automobile racing history of our modest South Jersey area began in the 1950's with many drivers and results to celebrate over the years. There is true legacy, history, honor, privilege, and responsibility in the awards we offer to the talented and daring racing drivers who represent us.

Meg Meyer was recognized for her perseverance in the face of adversity and contributions to our racing community with our Hardship Driver award. Meg was unable to run her normal schedule as a driver in 2009 yet was at all our events helping to make them successful, and then won in an endurance race at Watkins Glen in her only appearance as a driver this year showing that she had lost none of her speed and determination

Brian Heun (the Lovely and Talented!) was our 2009 Dave Rose Sportsman of the Year. Dave was a dear friend to many of us who battled hard but left this earth while still too young. Davey was a gifted, naturally talented driver, who spent most of his time helping others, your humble scribe included, with their racecars. That spirit of sportsmanship was demonstrated by Brian and the Formula 500 community during the 2009 racing season.

John Hainsworth was our 2009 Rookie of the Year. Running in the competitive ITS class, having first turned a wheel on track at our March 2009 driver school, John won 3 of the 4 Regional races he entered in 2009, and also ran 6 ProIT races with a podium 3rd, four 4ths, and a 6th. Running less than half a season, he finished 6th in the overall ProIT points, 4th in ITS, and was the New Jersey Road Racing Champion in ITS.

Mike Allenbaugh was our Stevenson-Wood Championship Driver award winner. This cup is awarded to a driver who demonstrates both champion results and who also works hard for the region. Mike won the 2009 F500 NJRRS championship while being a significant contributor to our club's success.

Jim Boggs was our 2009 road racing Driver of the Year. Jim had a career-defining season in a comeback year after major surgery. He ran in GT2 National Championship races with his Panoz, taking this car to new levels of speed. He then moonlighted in the most competitive SCCA class - Spec Racer Ford - where he qualified on pole in the rain and finished 2nd in the dry race at our Thunderbolt Regional.


Honorable Mentions went to several of our drivers: Eric King, Michael LaMaina, Steve Thomas, Brian Bates, John Redden, Forrest Hull, and Kyle Robertson, for their outstanding results representing our region in 2009.

Congratulations to all.



Thunderbolts


Please welcome our newest members:




Mike Zecca, Robert Sapsai, Bruce Duffield, Richard Abrams, Zane family members Keith, Terri, and Nathaniel, James Bird, Nathaniel Geary, Bert Struble, Clayton Hendrix, Pete Padley, James Cox, David Murdock, Jean and Ronald Lummis, Robert Frazier, Helmut Lackermayer, Joseph and Stephanie Roicotta, and returning members Pete and Dawn Doane. Our total membership stands at just under 350.




The Northeast Division SCCA RoundTable also features the Northern New Jersey Region's 60th Anniversary party. The RoundTable is March 12-14 at the Hamilton Park Hotel in Florham Park, featuring the NARRC awards luncheon on Saturday March 13 and the New York Life Presents NNJR 60th Anniversary party on Saturday night for a subsidized cost of only \$25! Go to www.nescca.com for more details and to register.



South Jersey Region is pleased to announce that our At Speed newsletter and region website was awarded third in the country (!!) in the awards for Region Communications, and that we were awarded the Tom Burke award for growth among medium sized regions.



Frank Sanchez has a 1999 24' Continental Automaster 2 axle trailer for sale, complete with cabinets, workbench, over 8' height, tire racks, light package, ramp-over interior width of 91", winch, jack, observation deck --- all the goodies --- all for an asking price of \$5840 obo. Contact Frank at 302 284 8722 for more info.



Our region is organizing a guided tour of the world-class Simeone Museum and race car collection on Saturday February 27th including a demonstration day featuring the very rare 1963 Corvette Grand Sport and 1964 Cobra Daytona Coupe outdoors at 12 noon weather permitting. Contact Don Colanero at 609 315 3466 of ignats@comcast.net for more information.



Lightning Up

My uncle, Tom Brink, 88 years young living in Grants Pass, Oregon and driving his Hemi-powered Dodge Magnum at speed along the canyon roads of the great Northwest, follows closely our region's activities at our great tracks at New Jersey Motorsports Park. This WWII hero and veteran was an avid racer back in the day, including among his teammates the late F1 star Pedro Rodriguez. He commented recently in an email "As we both know nothing enters the mind to disrupt your concentration when you are on the track, clears all other problems and frustrations at least for a time, as Stirling Moss put is 'Racing is like dancing the rhythm and the music that goes with it', soothing motion to calm the spirit." Amen to that Uncle Tom, and special laps of NJMP await your still considerable talents whenever you can join us here during a race weekend.

Chief Steward Walt Huber from the Northern New Jersey Region sent in his thanks for our great banquet, commenting 'Free beer! Good food! Great camaraderie! And did I mention free beer?! Nice surroundings! Super service from the waitstaff! And I'd be remiss if I didn't comment on the free beer!' Walt also added that, given the summer storms we endured during the 2009 season at NJMP, and then the winter storm for the banquet, that we either have ticked off the weather gods or sold our souls to the NJ devil in return for a drought-laden dry and weather-perfect 2010 season.



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matthew@direnzoracing.com



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Web site: www.sjr-scca.org

Autocross March 6, 2010 at NJMP.

Road Racing annual tech day at NJMP March 6th 10am.

Member meeting: March 10, Uno Chicago Grill, Route 73 Maple Shade.

Double rally weekend March 27-28 in Newark DE and Pitman NJ

Road Racing Driver School and PDX at NJMP Lightning circuit March 26-28.



SOUTH JERSEY REGION SCCA
C/O JD KING
759 STANTON AVE.
FRANKLINVILLE, NJ 08322