PITBOARD

SCCA Sports Car Club of America

August 2017

GingerMan Majors Success...226 Entrants!

We pulled it off again! The Bert Olson Majors hosted by South Bend and Detroit Regions on July 8-9 was once again the largest road race in Michigan with 226 entries. Larger than the Detroit Grand Prix and larger than any other SCCA race in Michigan. In fact, at the date of writing the GingerMan Majors is the eighth largest SCCA race in the country. You would have to travel to tracks like Sebring, Circuit of the America's, Road America and Mid Ohio to find larger fields. Why is that?

I don't have hard facts but I am going to take some guesses. Much of it is due to the fact that the SCCA Runoffs are being held at the Indianapolis Speedway and racers all over the country want a shot at attending. At the end of July, the car count for the Runoffs sits at 934 entries. The largest classes are SpecRacer Ford with a combined 148 entries and Spec Miata with 93 entries. The track limit will be 72 cars so SCCA has some adjusting to do.

Another reason could be due to the fact that we have some of the best volunteers in the country(Over 30 SBR members). The friendliness and enthusiasm of our volunteers creates a fun and family-like atmosphere that you won't find at many other events around the country. When our volunteers go out of their way to make racers and their families feel welcome, it shows. Racers come back. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers.

On Friday night we had our usual cookout for all the volunteers. Lots of folks came by to enjoy the food and conversation. Big time thanks to Leon Krauss and Jim Desenberg for making all the arrangements. New for 2017 we also had some race prep shops hold a cookout for racers. Advanced Autosports and V2 Racing fed the Spec Miata racers and Alliance Autosports fed the SRF and FE drivers. As I wandered around Friday night I counted at least 25 people at each site hanging out and enjoying each other's company. Racers were also treated to a free 6 pack of beer from local brewer, Lucky Girl. Big shout out to the people involved in making all that happen.

We've also made great strides in making our race weekend an event. We got the ball rolling last year when our RE, Dennis Jennings organized a fishing tournament for kids at the GingerMan Pond. In addition to the fishing tournament in 2018, Denny invited some classic cars for a car show. The owners hung around all day Saturday, enjoyed some racing and then had an opportunity to take a few laps around the track behind the pace car. After the National Anthem was sung on Saturday, Najeeb Khan treated the paddock to a flyover in his Navy trainer. Not sure if it's a first at a SCCA club race, but it was pretty darn amazing.

One of the finest moments of the weekend was the fact that SBR helped raise just over $1800 for a 5th grade boy named Thomas who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. The track manager agreed to give us part of the spectator fees and also coordinated a sizeable donation from another group to help support Thomas. Long time member, Jim Krzyzewski and his buddy from the Ferrari club, track owner Dan Schnitta, pace car driver Mike Jones, and race entrant Leo Capaldi all gave track rides at lunch in support of the cause. It truly was a team effort. I couldn't be prouder of the way the group worked together.

We did have race cars on track both days. Racers took part in free Friday night practice and then qualified Saturday and Sunday mornings for racing in the afternoon. Saturday was definitely a long day due to some on-track contact between some Spec Racer Fords. Luckily we had outstanding volunteers in charge of course and two ALS ambulance crews to assist. All drivers were OK. Overall weather was perfect, the food was good, and racers generally had a good time.Because of the generosity of Lane Automotive and Hoosier Racing Tire every worker was able to go home with at least two pieces of racing swag so I think they were pretty happy too! We'll do better in 2018.

SBR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Where: Beef 'O'Brady's
12479 State Rd 23
Granger, IN
Days: First Tuesday of month
Time: 6:00 pm board meeting
7:00 pm general meeting
Who: All are welcome!

SBR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dennis Jennings re@sbrscca.org	Regional Executive	574-232-0622
Jeff Luckritz race@sbrscca.org	Ass't RE/Race Chair PitBoard	269-429-3676
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Not a SCCA Member?
Go to www.scca.com
Choose South Bend as your local region!

SBR Calendar

August
1 SBR @ South Bend Cubs Game
5 Solo #4 @ Grissom
6 Solo #5 @ Grissom(Hoosier Challenge)
12 WMR Majors at Grattan Raceway
19 Tire Rack Street Survival @ Tire Rack
20 Solo #6 @ Tire Rack

September
5 Club Meeting
10 SBR Track Night at GingerMan
24 Solo #7 @ Tire Rack

October
3 Karting at MRP
Meet at Bob's 19th Hole afterwards
22 Australian Pursuit @ Tire Rack

November
7 Club Meeting
Elections/Free Food

December
5 Club Meeting

NO MEETING IN AUGUST...

We'll be at the Cubs Game

FREE DUES

We started it! Hold one of the following positions; National Race Worker, Pit-Board Editor, Race Chair, Street Survival Chair, RE, Solo Chair, Treasurer or Web-master. Half off dues for: Activity Points Keeper, Division Race Worker, Secretary and various Solo Chief positions.

www.facebook.com/SBRSCCA

Buy Tires-Help SBR

When purchasing items from The Tire Rack, first go to our web site at www.sbrscca.org, click on the Tire Rack link at the bottom of the page and then make your purchases. By doing so, the South Bend Region will earn a little extra dough!

Race Workers Travel Fund

SBR members that work another region's race may be compensated for their travel expenses as listed below:

Grattan/MIS	$75
Mid Ohio	$150
Corvette Museum	$225

Go to the following link, download a form and follow the directions. http://www.sbrscca.org/new/club-racing/

Getting SBR Activity Points

Activity	Points	Activity	Points
Race Chair	400	Car Show Display	75
Assistant Race Chair	200	Solo Co-Chair	75
PitBoard Editor	200	Race Worker/day	50
Website Manager	200	SBR Race Driver	50
Race Chief of Specialty	200	PitBoard Article/page	40
Associate PitBoard Editor	100	Rally/Solo Worker	40
Rally Series Chair	100	SBR Meeting Attendance	20
Solo Chair	100	Car Show Booth/day	20
Solo Series Specialty Chief	100	Rally Navigator	20
Event Chair	100	Race Crew/day	20
Program Director	100	Rally/Solo Driver	20
Club Officer	100	Race/Solo Meeting	20
Event Co-Chair	75	RoundTable/Worker Seminar	20
		PitBoard Picture	10

From the Seat of the RE

-Dennis Jennings

On July 20 to July 22 we again hosted the Motor State Challenge presented by Lane Automotive. This has become an event that I don't want to miss. This year was a bit different from the get go as we registered at the hotel rather than at Lane due to a semi crashing into their building in June. A full parking lot welcomed brother Mike and me to registration. Lots of nice cars as usual. After the initial meeting they left on the Thursday night cruise. It was an interesting destination. We found out it was going to Essenhaus for their regular Thursday cruise in. We decided to go trade the wife's Camry for the Mustang and arrived before the group. When they arrived, all attention went their way. The ground was shaking. We had 70 cars in our own area and lots of onlookers. Dinner was a great buffet and after ice cream we went home to get some rest for Friday.

Early Friday we met with our workers at Gingerman. We started tech and got done quickly. After the drivers meeting the cars took the track right on time. The day went well and the weather got a bit warm but the event was perfect except for one driver that hit the berm between 6 and 7 and destroyed her Corvette. That was the lone problem on an otherwise perfect day that ended with ice cream at the track from Sherman's (thanks Scott). Thanks to the SBR members that worked Friday for a job well done again.

Saturday morning came just as early and the first car was on course on time. The course was wet for the first run group and was drying for group 2 as the speeds were getting faster all morning. After lunch, the track was dry and the times really dropped. A great course design left the drivers happy and the workers a bit tired. We were done and trophies handed out to the winners by 3:30. A second day blessed with good weather. Thanks for the SBR workers that helped put on this event and those that ran also the competition. Received a lot of compliments that suggested this is the best event that they run. We are making a lot of friends at this event.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of this event and I sure hope we do it again. My only disappointment over the weekend was the number of SBR workers we had on Saturday. If it had not been for a few non-members that came and worked for their 2nd year we would have had trouble manning the corners. This comes after Scott has agreed to pay for our workers so that the drivers don't have to. I would like to know what we need to do to get our members (besides the regulars who put on the event) to come and help out. This event is one of those things that let us do extras such as the ball games, winter trips, go-karts, etc.

Thanks to all SBR workers again for a job well done: Mike J., Dick C., David B., Erika E., Lloyd L., Duane B., Dave G., Jim D., Mark M., Rod M., H.C., Paul M., Jim K., George S., Joe J., Chris C., Nick M., Kim B., Jeff L. (behind the scenes by making up run groups) and Steve H. You guys Rock!! No meeting in August due to the ball game.

See you in September at Beef's.

HOOSIER CHALLENGE IS ALMOST HERE

Your Chance to Represent SBR!

-Mark Manninen

The annual Hoosier Challenge autocross event weekend is being hosted this year by the South Bend Region and is scheduled for August 5th & 6th at Grissom Aeroplex near Peru, IN. It is a two day event scored as two regional points solos for the SBR Regional Solo Championship with Sunday as the official Challenge day. You can come just one day if you wish but two days would be twice the fun!

This Challenge event was started by the South Bend Region over 5 years ago in an effort to bring together the northern Indiana SCCA regions for a day of spirited inter-region competition beyond the usual regional events that we enjoy. The purpose was to encourage solo participants to travel a little more and get a taste of a larger event with a higher level of competition without the intimidation of a National Tour Solo event.

If you are not participating in these larger venues, you are missing the opportunity to advance your skills in the sport. Large sites with long courses designed to make you look ahead are what you will experience at National level competitions.

The Hoosier Challenge has grown in popularity and has been embraced by regions throughout all of Indiana. We routinely see participation from a half a dozen regions vying for the "Golden Cone" award as the region with the most overall class wins.

Granted, the region with the most diverse and active solo membership usually wins, which brings me to the next point… WE NEED YOU THERE! If you have never participated in a solo at Grissom Aeroplex, you have missed out on one of the oldest national level autocross venues in this part of the USA. The surface is aged cold war era concrete with tremendous grip and plenty of space. This large venue safely allows higher speeds than the Tire Rack test facility. Still not sure if you want to go? Keep in mind lunch is provided with your entry fee. If you don't wish to commute home, plenty of hotels and dining are nearby in Kokomo where you will likely find a friendly competitor bench racing and reviewing the day's events.

Breaking News!!! This event was just added to the Great Lakes Division Solo Series schedule adding some serious competition to test your skills and give you a real benchmark against national level drivers. If you have any questions, email me at: m_manninen@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Hope to see you there!

Upcoming SBR Events...Check it out!

Saturday, August 19th
Tire Rack, South Bend, IN

We could always use help with this program. Driver coaches and other volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to learn how to be a coach or would like to volunteer is some manner contact **Sam at: streetsurvival@sbrscca.org.**

GingerMan Track Night for SBR Members

Where:	GingerMan Raceway in South Haven, MI
When:	Sunday, September 10
Time:	Required meeting @5:00pm
Who:	Any SBR member. Not a member, call the national office and request to join South Bend Region.
Cars:	Any street car or race car with fenders.
Safety:	3-point belts Helmet-M2005 or SA2005 or newer. Convertibles must have rollover protection.
Groups:	Novice, Intermediate,Advanced
Cost:	$40.00. No preregistration, just show up.

Questions-Contact Jeff Luckritz at race@sbrscca.org.

Solo Opportunities

August 5th-6th
Grissom Aeroplex

Make the trip to Grissom and enjoy a truly awesome Solo experience on a wide open surface. See what you and your car can do with a little more room.

August 20th
The Tire Rack

We come back to The Tire Rack for Solo #6.

You can find more details like cost, location and schedule on our website; www.sbrscca.org or www.motorsportreg.com.