

PITBOARD



SCCA
Sports Car Club of America

September 2018



SBR Autocross... 40 Years of Fun and Friendship

The year was 1978. At the time I was employed by Bertles VW Mazda BMW as a salesman. I was conversing with a customer by the name of Jerry Janicki. He was telling me about this thing called Solo II. I had never heard of it and began to seriously question him about what it was and what was involved. After his explanation I was curious to find out about how to get involved. He had told me about an event that would be held at Elkhart Memorial High School's parking lot. Being very apprehensive I decided to give it a shot.

I owned a 1977 Trans Am that was stock except for a set of Recaro seats I had installed. Being young and stupid I believed I was probably the greatest driver on earth. How hard could driving around a bunch of pylons be. I cleaned the car up the night before and showed up to the event. I had no clue as to what to do. I met this guy whose name was Denny Jennings. He owned a black 1977 Camaro Z28. I asked him what class I should enter, and he told me I needed to be in the F Stock class even though technically the Recaro seats were illegal. Denny told me I needed to also increase the pressures in my tires so they didn't roll off the rims. I'm thinking to myself, damn what have I gotten myself into. I might end up missing a tire at the end of the day.

There was another car in our class that was a silver Olds Starfire owned by a guy

named Duncan MacMillan. At the end of the day I took on an addiction I haven't been able to kick for the last 40 years. Heroin is child's play in comparison. I ended the day by finishing second to Denny and not remotely close to his time, but did manage to beat out Duncan. As a side note years later I ended up working for Duncan, always reminding him I beat him on my first try. The next event was in June at a place called Durran Farms. I was told it was a track up around Watervliet MI that a guy named Bob Durran had built a track to do testing back in the 50's. It was a road course that was barely wide enough for one car. Ok I was game. After my first two runs I needed a change of pants. I went completely off two separate corners into the weeds. (Some things never change) The track had everything, blind corners, long straight, and elevation changes. It was an eye opener and I loved it. The hook was set deeper.

From the very beginning there was this guy whose name was Lloyd Loring. He owned an Alfa Romeo and did the announcing of the events. I learned eventually that when he announced "are you ready for this", someone had just turned in a spectacular run. It was however never said after any of my runs.

By the end of the season I had met and become friends with many of the members of SBR. I even attended a club meeting that was held at the Holiday Inn in Roseland.

Jeanne Ruble was the RE at that meeting. I'm thinking I better join this thing called SCCA. I'll probably miss some names but people like Doc Tanner, John Norton, Curt Thews, Dick Wisler, Bob Tarwacki, John Underhill, Dave Bowman, Doug Gay, Tom Losci. Dave Losci, Denny Jennings, Lloyd Loring, Jeanne Ruble, Steve Bethke, Jim Woodworth, Charlene Woodworth, Wayne Wiley, Dave Logan, Steve Tamandli, Bob Tamandli, along with many others helped welcome me to the club.

Over the years I have autocrossed just about everything imaginable but I have always had a love affair with big V8 pony cars. Over the years many things have changed. Back in the day the course designs were very tight. Sometimes it was hard to even get a car through a tight section. Safety concerns were a non-issue. We used to run some events that would of caused the safety stewards of today to have cardiac arrest. Cars were a lot less sophisticated. Soft compound street tires were nonexistent, there weren't near as many classes, but we still had a lot of fun. The after-event get together were as good if not better than the events.

One thing that hasn't changed are the friendships that last a lifetime. I've thought many times about hanging up the helmet this season, but for some reason the sport and the people just keep sucking me back in. For any members that haven't given it a try or were afraid to ,

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

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Not a SCCA Member?
Go to www.scca.com
Choose South Bend as
your local region!

SBR Calendar

September
4 Club Meeting
9 GingerMan Track Night-SBR Members
23 Solo @ Tire Rack
October
2 Karting at Michiana Raceway Park
21 Australian Pursuit
November
6 Club Meeting-Elections/Free Food
December
4 Club Meeting
January
12 SBR Awards Banquet
17-19 SCCA National Convention

Look Here!

**GingerMan Track Night for
SBR Members Only.
Sunday, September 9**

Driver Meeting at 5 pm

**Three Run Groups(3 sessions each)
(Novice, Intermediate, Advanced)**

**Helmets Required, Convertibles
Must Have Rollover Protection.**

**\$50 cash or check. Just
Show Up, no preregistration**

**Questions? E-mail Jeff Luckritz
race@sbrscca.org**

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 Webmaster. 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	\$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

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
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

SBR Autocross Report

-Jason Cleveland

On August 5th, approximately 30 drivers from SBR travelled to Grissom Aeroplex to compete in the 2018 Hoosier Challenge. In all 188 drivers competed, with SBR's very own George Schmitt taking first place in PAX! Five regions were represented, with the INDY region finishing with 103 points to claim victory. SBR had a strong 3rd place finish with 72 points considering we represented just 15% of the total participants. For those of you who didn't participate, it's a great opportunity to drive on a different surface, in a different environment and against a much broader range of drivers than our typical Tire

Rack event. We NEED to have a stronger showing next year and take away the trophy from INDY!

On a local solo note, we just completed our next to last solo event for the season. It turned out to be a great day, with 48 participants. Things ran smoothly enough we were able to get 4 morning runs in, as well as 4 in the afternoon. With everyone's help and cooperation, we had the site cleaned up and the trailer packed by 4:30! We've had a great season so far, with better weather cooperation than can be expected for our area! Make sure you don't miss our

final event on September 23rd at the Tire Rack!

We have had great success this year with people signing up to become Solo Safety Stewards, now we need the same for a few more roles. Here are just a few of the roles that we could use additional people trained in: On-Site Registration, Timing & Scoring, Starter. If you are interested in learning a position other than Cone Chaser, see Nick Mawhorrr or Jason Cleveland at the next event, or send an email to solo@sbrscca.org

SBR Elections...Help Make a Difference in the Club

SBR Needs your help! Out clubs yearly elections are coming up in November and we will start taking nominations in our September and October meetings. Do you want to be more involved? Do you have great ideas? Run to be a board member. This requires coming to monthly meetings

and it is a great way to learn more about our club. It does not matter if you are Race, Solo or just like cars.

Are you comfortable in a leading role? Do you have ideas how to grow our club and get members more involved? Think about running for Regional Executive. You

will get to go to the Las Vegas convention and meet lots of great people from across the country. Our club is a volunteer organization, we need your help to continue to have a South Bend Region SCCA.

Thank you! Your RE, Erika Engler.

Bert Olson Majors Report

South Bend and Detroit Regions worked together on July 7-8 to hold a SCCA Majors race at GingerMan Raceway. We tried something different on Friday evening in order to provide a better experience for racers, crew and workers. We moved registration and Express Tech to the pavilion. The move to the pavilion gave everybody a ton more elbow room and also allowed race teams an opportunity to park their rigs and come to registration at their convenience.

Once inside the track, volunteers headed over to the worker cookout just to the north of the quaint pond at GingerMan. Big thanks to Jim Desenberg and Leon Krauss for helping to organize that successful gathering. We had brats, blueberry dessert and everything in between. While the volunteers were doing their thing, several race groups were also having their own gatherings. Advanced Autosports hosted Spec Miata drivers, Capaldi Racing invited the big bore street cars, and Alliance Autosports brought Spec Racer Ford and Formula Enterprises to their paddock for food and beverage. As racers

were gathering in the paddock, racers were also taking part in the free Friday night practice. I'm not sure anybody else in the nation offers a free practice like we do.

Just like in years past, Lynnette Markowicz and her grid team greeted racers with a smile. Duane Belisle made sure Pit Lane was safe and made sure racers knew where the black flag steward could be found. Underneath the three story tower, Rod Markowicz must have done some offseason recruiting because there were more people working tech than I've ever seen. Our poor radio communication has been an issue in the past, but it appears that Steve Bollinger and Mark Manninen have come up with a solution since our radio communication was the best it's ever been.

Racers receiving a trophy were in store for a special treat. Top three finishers would receive a gold, silver or bronze medal at SCCA Driver Information, then they would step over to the Lane Automotive booth where they would choose from a variety of items that could be used at the race track.

Some of the items available for trophy winners were cleaning fluids, fuel jugs, track mats, and air gauges. From what I've heard, racers were very happy receiving something they could actually use. Thanks to Scott Wahlstrom for working with SBR on this deal and Caleb Mullaur for manning the Lane Automotive booth.

With all the good going on around the paddock, we did have one huge problem. Racers didn't come to our race. Officially, we only had 117 entrants which is about half of what we had in 2017. Possible reasons could be the fact that the Runoffs are in Sonoma, CA, our race was only a few days after July 4th, and there was a Divisional race at Mid Ohio the week after our event. With the Runoffs at Virginia International Raceway in 2019, I predict that we will be back to the 200 entry count. Regardless of the low car count, SBR volunteers came out in force and provided a top-notch event for the races that did make the trip to GingerMan.



Jim, Bernard, Paul, Leon and Dave on Friday Night



Brian Tack releases a Formula Enterprises car from grid