

PITBOARD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH BEND REGION

SPORTS CAR CLUB of AMERICA



February 2021

FROM THE EDITOR

Well we have entered a new year and so far I don't see a big difference from the year 2020. I sure hope that the new vaccine will begin to make the difference we all have been looking for.

In less that a week we will have a new President for our country. Whether you are a republican, democrat or independent I hope that we will all work together to make things better. We have seen a lot of turmoil in the last month and it really has been hard to watch. Our country is great because the people have always worked together. That needs to happen again.

So far, as you saw in the last PitBoard we are planning a full schedule of events in SCCA and South Bend Region. I really hope that all of it can happen. Without a lot of stupid things going on with professional racing series like Indy cars and Nascar maybe our schedule will live. We do need to get back and have our National race and push to get a real turnout of competitors again. With the runoffs at Indy maybe that will happen. The last nationals at Indy had almost 1000 entries if you remember. It will be interesting to see how it works out this year.

Hoping that we can begin meeting again at Beef O'Brady's soon. The Mustang club did meet in January but it was not very well attended. About a third of the normal turnout.

I have been trying to get the vaccine scheduled for the wife and I but have not had much luck. All the area sites seem to be booked. Will just keep trying to make it happen.

Please remember to renew your membership when it come due. My brother Mike will be celebrating his 50th year in SCCA. Not too many of those in SBR. Free lifetime member from here on out. Congratulations.

Still looking for some people that want to write some articles for the publication. Would be great if some of you fine members would submit something to me. Picture are welcome.

Hope to hear from Paul on the status of the February meeting and the upcoming awards banquet in March. Watch for further info in this issue.

Until next month keep safe and hope to see you all soon.

Denny

LLOYD LORING INDUCTED TO SCCA HALL OF FAME

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At the convention our longest member was inducted into the SCCA Hall of Fame.

We have worked for a few years to make this happen as we felt he absolutely deserved to be there.

Raleigh Boreen did the commentary and did a great job. Then it was Lloyd's turn to talk. As always he was very humble that he hasn't done anything special but we all know better. He was joined by Bill and daughter Elizabeth during the ceremony. It was great to see Lloyd again after what has been a difficult year for him and his family.

Congratulations again to Lloyd for the honor. It was great to see it happen. Well deserved.

SBR MONTHLY MEETINGS

WHERE: BEEF O'BRADY'S
12479 State rd.23
Granger, in.

WHEN: First Tuesday of the month
TIME: 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting
7:00 P.M. general meeting

2021 Schedule

February
2 – **No meeting**
March
2 – General meeting
20 – SBR Awards banquet
April
6 – General meeting
May
4 – General meeting
15/16 – Double regional (Gingerman)
16 – SCCA CRE Endurance racing
June
1 – General meeting
July
6 – General meeting
15/17 – Lane Motorstate Challenge
17/18 – SCCA Time Trials
23 – SCCA CRE Endurance racing
24/25 SBR Majors at Gingerman

FREE DUES

We started it! Hold one of the following positions and get your dues back. R.E., National Race Worker, Race Chair, Pitboard Editor, Street Survival Chair, Webmaster, Solo Chair, Treasurer. Half off dues for Activity Points Keeper, Divisional Race Worker License, Secretary, and various solo positions.

SBR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dennis Jennings Pitboard Editor

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NEED TIRES/ HELP SBR

When you need new tires be sure to go to the Tire Rack. Go to our website South Bend Region will earn some dough at www.sbrscca.org and click on the Tire Rack link at the bottom of the page to make your purchase. By doing so, South Bend Region will earn some dough.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
Our annual awards dinner is now being set in March 20.
Please watch your PitBoard for future announcements.

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

RACE WORKERS TRAVEL FUND

SBR members that work other regions races may be compensated for their travel expenses as listed below.

Grattan	\$75.00
Mid-Ohio	\$150.00
Corvette Museum	\$225.00

Go to the following link, download the form and follow the instructions.

<http://www.sbrscca.org/new/club>

NOT A MEMBER

Join today at SCCA.com and Choose South Bend Region as your home region

REport – January

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS.... Famous and familiar words for the South Bend Region Solo Community. If you have been on any SBR social media you are aware of **Lloyd Loring's** induction into the National SCCA Hall of Fame. It is an honor well deserved by Lloyd. He is the 'bench mark' for solo announcing.

I'd like to make a few other shout-outs in this issue.

First, **Jeff Luckritz** has finished his last term on the Board of Directors. Jeff was a long time Regional Executive/Board Member/Race Chairman. He will continue on as SBR Race Chairman. Taking Jeff's place is **Mark Manninen**. Mark is active with our Solo program, has served on the Board before, is a licensed 'Course Marshall' in road racing and in his spare time has built his own track/solo car.

Second, a big thank you goes to **Rich Hammond** for the time he spent reworking the SBR website and acting as webmaster for several years. Rich is backing away from those responsibilities. In his place I would like to welcome **Mark Bublitz** as our new Webmaster. Mark has been working with Rich and the transition is very smooth.

Third, **Scotland Slabach** has begun working with **Jason Cleveland** as Solo Chairman for the region. I want to welcome Scot as he works through this transition period.

And finally, to **Dennis Jennings**. Dennis has revived our newsletter – **PITBOARD** – and has been doing a fantastic job. We have gotten a newsletter every month this past year. Look for Dennis at most SBR functions.

I could continue on but the list would include all those volunteers who have made SBR the Region of Choice. Thanks to all of you who have helped make SBR programs viable.

One last comment. SBR Tire Rack Street Survival Director Sam Centellas works for *La Casade de Amistad*. They are moving into a new to them facility. They are looking for volunteers to help with cleanup, painting, etc. Although this is not an SBR function anyone interested can go to <https://lacasadeamistad.org> to see what opportunities exist.

There will be NO Membership meeting in February. I hope this will be the last one we need to cancel.

Be careful, stay safe!

Paul McBride - RE

Short Summary of Opening of National Convention

I watched the opening section of the National Convention yesterday given by Mike Cobb, president of SCCA. I will offer some of my observations from his talk.

First off he thanked all of the members for making 2020 safe and somewhat successful for the club in spite of the Virus. We all know that everyone struggled with how the year happened. It is to be expected. Going forward into 2021 the requirements for events will remain the same as 2020. This is to insure that our events will be safe and comply with Federal regulations.

We are looking to reinstate the Street Survival series in the spring or summer. I am not sure what could be the deciding factor there.

Once again he stressed that to be successful as a club is to follow the club framework. That would be the 5 P's of success as described at the convention a couple of years ago. They are people, process, programs, partners, and performance. I would urge you to watch the replay of his intro to the convention. It can be found on the SCCA website.

He announced that we had 61,627 members of which 42,852 are full members. Others are weekend members. Overall we lost 570 members last year which can probably be related to Covid.

He brought up to continued use of E-Sanctioning in SCCA. This should make sanctioning of events easier for chairpersons. It will also make for reduced turnaround for approvals and also will improve audit submissions.

We have begun to work with IMSA to do co-hosting of events in order to get workers better trained to work pro events. Also considering making a category for those qualified to work pro events. At least that is my opinion of what I heard. You can listen and make your own conclusions if you like.

He signed off by again thanking all in the club.

Road Racing Town Hall

I didn't get a lot from this session. Was expecting more info I guess even though I had never attended this session at the convention. Maybe it was normal.

Runoffs will be at Indianapolis again this year and they are expecting another large entry as last time there. Supplemental regs should be ready by April with registration beginning in July.

I didn't get to view any other sessions so if anyone in the club did you can write a short report on what you got for next month's newsletter. I would appreciate the input as I am sure others would also.

Denny

SBR Road Racing

A Peek Behind the Curtain

-Jeff Luckritz, Race Chair

Despite sometimes being called the “Secret Car Club of America,” I can ensure you that there are no secrets to what happens behind the scenes to put on a SCCA sanction road race. Just like any event where hundreds of people are involved, all it takes to put on a successful event is planning and putting the right people in place. My job as the SBR Road Race Chair is very similar to that of a wedding planner. Let’s take a look.

Step 1-Pick a Date

Get approval from the SBR Board and pick a date or dates for road racing. Generally, we start discussing this about a year ahead of time. We need to consider track availability, volunteer enthusiasm, the number of entries we expect and how our date(s) at GingerMan Raceway fit into the road racing schedule in the Northern Conference. Picking a date to race is very similar to finding a date that your extended family can visit for Christmas. Lot’s of moving parts.

Step 2-Write the Supplemental Regulations (“Supps”) and Determine the Weekend Schedule

This sounds daunting doesn’t it? To be honest, once the “Supps” are written they can be used year after year. Besides the “Supps” for the Club Racing Events (CRE) we put on, I have never had to write the “Supps” from scratch. It’s probably fair to say that besides yearly tweaks, our “Supps” are probably a couple decades old. The schedule is probably tweaked six or seven times before we settle on a final schedule. I try to get input from the major players involved in the club and any other region that we are partnered with. I’ve learned over the years that there is a lot of “dead time” at a SCCA race. This is time where there are no cars on the track; the time before a session, the time after the checkered flag and the time where we are cleaning up fluid spills and crash damage. I used to figure 10-minutes of “dead time” after each session, but now I build in 15-minutes. If everything goes well and we get done early I consider this a bonus. See sample morning schedule below.

<i>8:00-8:30 am</i>	<i>Group 1 & 2 Seamless Practice</i>
<i>8:45-9:15 am</i>	<i>Group 3 & 4 Seamless Practice</i>
<i>9:30-10:00 am</i>	<i>Group 1 Race</i>
<i>10:15-10:45 am</i>	<i>Group 2 Race</i>
<i>11:15-11:45 am</i>	<i>Group 3 Race</i>
<i>12:00-12:15 am</i>	<i>Group 4 Race</i>
<i>12:15-1:15 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>

Step 3-Set a Budget

This is the toughest part of the job. Many expenses are fixed. Things like track rental, ambulance, tow truck are very easy to estimate. Food and beverage expenses vary with the number of entries and volunteers. The largest unknown is the number of racers that show up. While we have historical data regarding the number of entrants, outside factors like the economy, weather, the schedule and a pandemic contribute to large fluctuation of entrants from year to year. When a budget is submitted to the SBR board, I include several columns that show the number of predicted entrants and how it will affect the bottom line. There have been years where we break even and there are other years where we net over ten grand. We never budget to lose money.

Step 4-Get Chiefs

Every race specialty has a Chief. While I don’t know the SCCA definition of Chief, my job description for Chief is the person in charge of their specialty for the weekend. More specifically, the Chief should ensure that everybody knows what they are doing

and they have a good time doing it in a safe and pleasant manner. E-mails go out to all the Chiefs from the previous year to see if they are interested in helping out for the next year. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the Chiefs are more than happy to return. We are also very fortunate to have a very strong contingent of Chiefs in the South Bend Region.

Step 5-Submit "Supps" and Sanction Application

Once the "Supps" and Weekend Schedule are determined, I fill out a SCCA Sanction application along with the other documents to the Executive Steward for the Great Lakes Division. The Executive Steward will go over the "Supps" and the Weekend Schedule to make sure we are following the SCCA General Competition Rules (GCR). They will also check for inconsistencies. Once they are satisfied, the forms will be sent off to SCCA in Topeka so we can get our sanction number and insurance.

Step 6-Send out Reminders and Worry

About two weeks before the event we need to make sure everybody is going to show up. Reminders go out to all the chiefs, ambulance, tow truck, fire and rescue, the caterer and GingerMan Track Management. Two weeks out is also the time I start to worry about getting enough entrants. You just never know how many racers are going to show up.

Step 7-Arrive Early on Friday and Say Hi!

I try to be the first one at the track. If I am racing during the weekend I will try to drop my trailer off the day before so I can arrive around lunch time. While a good number of racers will arrive Thursday night and Friday morning, most of our volunteers will roll in mid-afternoon. Registration and Tech Inspection will open up in the evening and I will check in to make sure they have everything they need. I try to greet as many volunteers as possible and thank them for coming. There are lots of smiles and handshakes.

Step 8-Get There Early on Saturday and Pass the Torch to the Stewards

It is almost game time. I make sure to meet the ambulance crew, the tow truck operators along with the GingerMan staff. I'll make sure water, ice and radios are being distributed to volunteers and all the Chiefs have everything they need. I'll run up to both floors of the tower to help coordinate communications and the distribution of results. Assuming that I have thought of everything ahead of time, at 8:00 am my job is basically done and the SCCA Stewards run the show.

Step 9-Monitor the Event

I make it a point to talk to the folks in registration, tech, grid, start, sound and the tower to touch base and say thank you again. If any fine-tuning needs to be done I will act as the go-between to help ensure the event runs smoothly. I will thank people again at the Saturday night social. I cannot stress enough how important it is for people to know they are appreciated.

Step 10-Help Clean Up

South Bend Region is blessed to have great members and they know how to work. I do my best to put people in charge of helping clean up their specialty. If everybody pitches in, we can pack everything up and be out of the track within an hour of the last checked flag of the day.

Thank You

We are lucky to have a great bunch of members in the South Bend Region and I love hanging out and working with them. If it weren't for the dedication and friendliness of the SBR membership, we wouldn't be as successful as we are. But, we can always improve. If you would like to be part of our amazing race weekends just drop me an e-mail and we will find a way for you to contribute. The more the merrier.

Jeff Luckritz

South Bend Region, SCCA

Race Chair

race@sbrscca.org

I thought that I might publish some pictures from the years I have had in SBR-SCCA. I have had plenty of opportunities to do quite a few things and do some travelling with SCCA in the 49 years I have been a member. While working with Pro-Racing Patty and I got to go to some places we probably wouldn't have gone otherwise such as Canada, California, Texas, Denver, and many others. Here are just a few pictures from over the years. Denny



SBR Regional at Blackhawk



Can-Am racing at Road America



More Can-Am



Trans Am—
Wally Dallenbach



Russ Thues of Detroit
In Trans Am



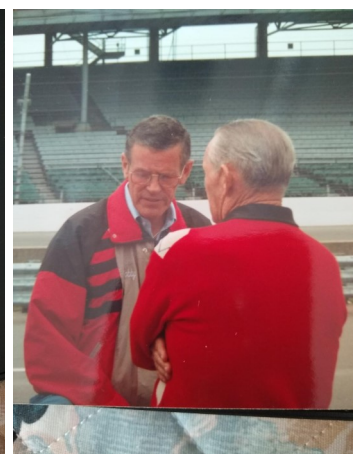
Warwick Brown
F-5000 with Bob Bay



Al Unser Jr
F-5000



Danny Ongais
F-5000



Al Unser Sr