

The Independent-Racket

The Combined Newsletter of the Twickenham Auto Club and the Tennessee Valley Region SCCA

April 2005

TVR Report

by Mark Rothermel

SUCCESS – first TVR Rallycross of the year, biggest entry number yet! SUCCESS – first TVR Solo (2) of the year, biggest entry number since the days we did divisionals in the early nineties! SUCCESS-TV co-sponsors a Time Trial School/regular Time Trial points event with Alabama Region-SCCA and the biggest number of entrants from TVR (13), biggest number of full-time workers at a out-of-town event in some time (9) and a great overall entry turnout (mid-fifties) mean another great accomplishment for 2005 by the members of TVR.

What else can happen? Well the Rallycross schedule has people asking for more dates to conduct these events-we just need people to help John Barnett take the load off him so he can quit burning both ends of the candle. The Autocross schedule has event masters and we hope to hear something on a new place to play but don't forget to support that program by letting Mike

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The April Showers RallyCross brought an assortment of cars (Picture from Tom Rothrock)



At the Time Trials school at TGPR, Craig and John try to look cool, while Marty looks distracted.

Picture by Samir (www.huntsvillecarscene.com)



Many Birmingham Subaru's came to attend the April Showers RallyX. (Picture from Tom Rothrock)

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Special thanks to Samir, who takes great photographs of our events, as well as other car-related events around Huntsville. His website can be found at www.huntsvillecarscene.com, and contains a well-filled calendar of events for the Huntsville area.

For the most part, newsletters will now be sent out via e-mail or available for download from the TAC website (www.TeamTAC.org).

Hard copies will only be sent to those who specifically request newsletters to be mailed to them, in addition to those on special distribution lists.



At the April Showers RallyX, there were multiple Datsuns in attendance. Picture by Samir (www.huntsvillecarscene.com)

FORUMS

TeamTAC.org

Thanks to the efforts of the current TAC webmaster, Brad Clarke, the discussion forums on teamtac.org are a great way to keep in touch with current happenings, latest changes, and discuss a wide range of issues. The forums are broken down by category and allow the user to email directly from a post to the person that posted a comment.

Tennessee Valley Region, SCCA

www.tvrscca.com

TVR meets the 2nd Thursday each month at 7:00 PM at Ci Ci's Pizza 10004 Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville, AL. Visitors are always welcome!

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Independent-Racket

The *Independent-Racket* is published monthly by the Tennessee Valley Region, SCCA (TVR) and the Twickenham Auto Club (TAC). The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not constitute official positions of TVR, TAC, or SCCA.

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Advertising in the classified ads section of the *Independent-Racket* is free for members of TVR and/or TAC. The rates for other advertisers are posted in the classified ads section of the newsletter.

Twickenham Auto Club

www.teamtac.org

TAC meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month at 7:00 PM at the China Buffet on Madison Boulevard (old Hwy 20, west of Wall-Triana)

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Rally Committee Chairman

None presently.

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Cavanaugh know how you can help. Time Trials got a big event done and now looks at a huge mountain to climb, in this case called the Crow Mountain Hillclimb. This event is causing people to talk, ask, and even already drive 12 hours round trip to look at the site. October will be very soon so let John Barnett know you are available to help work this big undertaking. Road Racing? we don't have no stinkin' road racing! AHHHH don't think I have left you guys out! There is some talk with another region about maybe...just maybe....well you need to make a meeting to find out and yes we need help with that too.

So what is it? Sit around and sweat out another summer in the south or would you like to get into action. The invitational has been sent; don't miss out while your selection is at an all-time high.

Mark Rothermel RE-TVR

From: Eric Prill

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 12:01 PM

Subject: 2006 SCCA Runoffs Date Announced, Moves To October

For Immediate Release

SCCA RUNOFFS DATES SET FOR 2006

Event Returns to October; Hotel Information and Rates Available

TOPEKA, Kan. (May 4, 2005) – Sports Car Club of America, Inc. has announced the dates for the 2006 SCCA National Championship Runoffs®, taking a page of its own history and returning the 43rd running of the classic to a more traditional October date for the first event at Heartland Park Topeka (Topeka, Kan.).

The 24 National Championship Runoffs races will be held Friday, Oct. 13 through Sunday, Oct. 15. As has been tradition, the event officially commences on Monday, Oct. 9 for practice, followed by three days of qualifications Oct. 10-12 to set the starting lineups.

Heartland Park Topeka will give Runoffs participants a first look at the Runoffs-only track configuration during the promoter test week, Oct. 1-8.

"Eastern Kansas weather is normally very cooperative during this time of the year, and we've got the opportunity to extend the time between the final National events of the season and the Runoffs," SCCA Club Racing Director Terry Ozment said. "This will give competitors more time to prepare for the Runoffs as well as potentially boost participation in the late-season events."

In addition to the date announcement, SCCA, with assistance from the Topeka Convention and Visitor's Bureau, has arranged special "SCCA" rates from Oct. 1-15 with many area hotels. The downtown Ramada Inn has been selected as the Official SCCA Event Host Hotel, offering rooms and a complimentary breakfast for a standard rate of \$75 plus tax per night. Executive Rooms (\$85) and suites (\$135) are also available. Reservations may be made at any time through the hotel (800) 432-2424, and rates are guaranteed through Sept. 1, 2006.

Several other area hotels have locked in an "SCCA" rate, although some offer different packages with each rate. A list follows this release, and hotels should be contacted directly for complete details.

In addition to hotel accommodations, Heartland Park Topeka will also provide racers, workers and spectators ample family-friendly camping opportunities during Runoffs testing and competition.

The SCCA National Championship Runoffs® is the annual championship event for the nation's top amateur road racing drivers, and is regarded as the "Olympics" of motorsports. Featuring more than 700 participants annually, the weeklong event marks its 42nd running this September, with the SCCA National Championship Runoffs Presented by Kohler at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

For more information about the SCCA National Championship Runoffs, please visit www.scca.com. For more information on Heartland Park Topeka, log on to the track's website at www.hpt.com.

Additional hotels offering SCCA rates for the 2006 SCCA National Championship Runoffs. All listed prices are per night and do not include tax. Links to all area hotels are available through the TCVB Web site at www.topekacvb.org.

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Amerisuites (\$99)

Best Western Candlelight Inn (\$79)

Best Western Topeka Inn (\$79)

Club House Inn and Suites (\$79)

Country Inn and Suites (\$99)

Holiday Inn (\$74)

Holiday Inn Express (\$74)

Motel 6-Fairlawn Road (\$71.99)

Motel 6-Wanamaker Road (\$75.99)

Red Carpet Inn (\$37.95)

Regency Inn (\$45)

Senate Luxury Suites (\$72)

Attached: Image of the field in the 2004 SCCA National Championship Runoffs Presented by Kohler GT-2 race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Image may be reproduced with proper copyright information © 2004 Mark Weber/SCCA. For additional image needs, contact eprill@scca.com.

Eric Prill

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RACING MEMO

DATE: May 3, 2005

FROM: National Staff

TO: All Technical Inspectors and Competitors

SUBJECT: Driver Suits

It has been brought to our attention that some competitors are showing up with driving suits carrying the SFI certification 40.1. **This certification covers abrasion resistant driver/rider suits and not flammability.** Section 7.23 of the GCR requires the use of suit meeting the SFI certification .2A/1 or higher (3.2A/5, 3.2A/10, etc.). This same certification requirement applies to crew members refueling the car during endurance races as specified in the event supplemental regulations. The SFI patch on the suit will list the specification to which the suit has been certified. Please make sure your safety gear meet the appropriate specs as indicated in the GCR.

Thank you for your attention to this important subject. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact SCCA Technical Services for more info.

TWICKENHAM AUTO CLUB



TAC meeting Number 1143 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on 03/17/05
19 members attended. 4 guests attended.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Secretary: Brad Clarke Minutes for TAC meeting 1142 were read and approved.

President: Mark York None

Vice President: Rick Hamby None

Treasurer: Craig Farr Insurance has been paid for 2005. School was profitable and got us lots of new members.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Activities: TVR #1 on April 3

Membership: We're up to 48 paid members.

Slalom: None

Rally: Aaron has stopped doing SCCA Rally to focus on Road Rally _

Equipment: Dennis found some information on generators. More discussion is needed.

Newsletter: Aaron has set a middle-of-the-month deadline for newsletters. Next issue will be the first that is done through email for some people.

Publicity: None

Merchandise: Rich has stuff and a couple of SCCA rulebooks for people.

Guest tonight: Lee Whitbrock (found us through the car show)

Entertainment: None

Historical: Keep the scrapbook and archives in mind. 50th scrapbook is still progressing. Converting digital images to hard copies for the scrapbooks was discussed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Car Show: 51 cars entered the show, 20-30 more showed up for exhibition. Amount of publicity gained from the show was disappointing. More member participation is needed to make these shows better.

Site: None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION – Spend \$30 a year to convert choice digital photos to hard copies for the archives – PASSED (unanimous)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Forum: Fairness at autocrosses was discussed, especially with instructors driving student cars and drivers getting back-to-back runs on warm tires. Members should keep in mind that they are representing our club when posting on our web site.

Mark Rothermel is soliciting help for the SCCA Solo I/Time Trial school.

Help for the Crow Mountain Hill Climb is still needed.

Want Ads: Aaron is selling his G2 Rally car, ready to race.

Past Events: Mike Cavanaugh went to the autocross at TGPR.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Upcoming Events:

May 5 TAC Meeting
 May 12 TVR-SCCA Meeting
 May 15 TN Spokes Road Rally (www.tennessee-spokes.org)
 May 19 TAC Meeting
 May 21-22 TAC Slalom
 June 2 TAC Meeting
 June 5 TVR-SCCA Solo
 June 9 TVR-SCCA Meeting
 June 16 TAC Meeting
 June 18 TN Spokes Road-Cross (www.tennessee-spokes.org)
 July 7 TAC Meeting
 July 14 TVR-SCCA Meeting
 July 21 TAC Meeting
 July 23-24 TAC Slalom

TVR-SCCA holds meetings every 2nd Thursday at 7pm at Ci-Ci's pizza on South Parkway.

TAC holds meetings every 1st and 3rd Thursday at the China Buffet on Madison Blvd, west of Wall-Triana. Meeting start is now **7 pm**.

All Solo's and Slaloms are held at John Hunt Park (Old Airport) unless otherwise stated.

Five Years Ago (April 2000) - Editor Rod Ashcraft opened the issue with a brief item about the late-February SCCA National Solo II Tour Event in Meridian, Mississippi. Local attendees were Mike Pessoney, Eddie Jory, Charles Wright, Clay McCool, Dan Hollenbaugh, Steve Hoelscher, Chris Katechis and Jerry Hardt. Eddie Jory also provided a more detailed review of the event elsewhere in the issue. Jim Burruss' article about a trouble plagued Alabama Region Solo II at the Talladega Gran Prix Raceway shared front page space. Eddie Jory also published a review of the recent TAC Performance Driving School, which fared well in spite of rain on Sunday. His article was reinforced by a thank-you letter from a Tennessee participant who also enrolled his son and who felt the school was totally worthwhile. A humorous article described how to gain 50 horsepower with a build-it-yourself coffee can exhaust tip, just in time for April Fool. Want Ads offered for sale several cars and parts.

Ten Years Ago (April 1995) - A slim issue featured articles describing SEDIV-SCCA's Improved Touring "D" class, also spoofed by Editor Joe Byrd's cover art depicting a very upright antique car with ITD markings, and SCCA's Super Production Class. A complete TVR-SCCA membership list was also published. The Alabama Region-SCCA advertised a Solo I Driver's School at TGPR as well as a Test & Tune day at the same venue the following weekend. Want Ads offered a Uniden Bear Tracker, a bare MGB body, a collection of automotive books, and an assortment of parts.

TGPR Time Trial

By Craig Farr

For 2004, SCCA changed the name and the format of SOLO I to SCCA Time Trials. There are four different levels of Time Trials starting with the basic Performance Driving Experience and ending with Hill Climbs. The TVR sponsored Crow Mountain event this fall is a Level 4 Hill Climb. On 16-17 April, TVR and Alabama co-sponsored a Level 3 Time Trial at the Talladega Grand Prix Raceway (TGPR). What made this unique was that this event was a combined TT School and TT event. Fifty Four people drove in the event of which there were 16 students. TVR and TAC members showed themselves proud: FTD for the weekend, 8 First Places, 2 Track Records, and 8 drivers got their SCCA TT licenses.

George Bugg of TVR was the School Master and Mike Wenning of AL Region was the Registrar and overall TT Event Master. Rich Crowell came down to tech all of the new cars and provide TT Logbooks. Mark Rothermel was the TT Safety Steward, teched cars, and ran a TT Safety Steward Class. Craig Farr was the Assistant Safety Steward. Brian Peele, Mike Chandler, Mark Rothermel and George Bugg dedicated their time as instructors. John Clarke, Chris Spalding, Mike Cavanaugh, Charles Wright, Shelton Wright, Jim Burruss, and Tom Rothrock came down to serve as course workers. An extra special THANKS to the workers because without this type of dedication, we the drivers would not have these events.

This TT saw the first ever running of the long awaited Estill MR2. Many years in development/assembly but the car came together and survived the weekend. Marty Williams was doing final installs with the car on the trailer on the drive down to get it ready (or so it seemed). John Barnett couldn't get his car ready in time so he rented the Van Cleef Toyota Celica and had a blast in it. Mark York had to WORK out of town at the last minute and missed the event all together (Mark needs a priority lesson). Maurice Tinkler and son Kristen drove up only to learn that his car would not pass tech (but helped everyone out all weekend anyway).

There were a few car related failures but the TVR/TAC team pulled together to diagnose, commiserate, lend a tool, dirty their hands, drink beer, and get the poor unfortunates back on the track. Marty broke his shift mechanism, drove back to Huntsville to manufacture new parts and came back. Greg Marvin had the trailer bearing attempt to come apart on the caravan down. Chuck Olson lost his distributor Saturday night but got a new one back in to run Sunday. Chuck even ran out of petrol on Sunday. Charles Wright burned a wheel bearing and had to be trailered home by the Alabama Region guys. The Bugg Van Diemen had a series of engine related problems that kept George and Ron busy all weekend. Mark Rothermel's FV saw a lot of time with the covers off. Rothrock cooked his Boxter brakes during the Sunday worker track time but had more fun that he thought he could have.

The two days were truly blessed by the weather guessers. Sunshine and temperatures in the 70's during the day. The days around the event were totally wet and miserable. Overnight camping was peaceful, cheap, and not chilly at all.



Craig Farr in his CSP Miata, at TGPR (or is that a RallyCross?). Picture by Tom Rothrock.

TGPR Solo School Results *(from Craig Farr)*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Car</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Ron Wicks	CFC	Van Diemen	2 nd	
Craig Farr	CSP	Miata	1 st	
Jim Cambron	CSP	Miata	5 th	
Chuck Olson	CSP	Civic	7 th	
George Bugg	FC	Van Diemen	1 st	Also FTD
Greg Marvin	FSP	Jetta	1 st	
Mike Chandler	FV	Predator	1 st	
Mark Rothermel	FV	Caldwell	2 nd	
Dave Estill	ITA	MR2	1 st	
Tim Boyett	SM	Civic	6 th	
Marty Williams	SPU	Rabbitt	1 st	
Brett Whisenant	SPU	Rabbitt	2 nd	
John Barnett	SSC	Celica	1 st	Track Record
Brian Peele	T-2	Supra	1 st	Track Record

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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