The Independent-Racket

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

Jan/Feb 2005



John's G60 Scirocco is revived for the first RallyX of 2005 at Huntsville Speedway.



A large turnout from the Subaru club in Birmingham helped make the Feb 12th RallyX the largest ever!



During the recent TAC/TVR trailer work-party, a new storage box for the trailer was purchased. Problem was, Steve's Miata was a little short on cargo space. Not to fear, the passenger seat had plenty of room, and Brad's hands held the tub from blowing away on the trip home. Luckily, the tub was opaque, preventing Brad from seeing the snickering looks they attracted as they drove back with the tub.

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Editor's Corner:

By Aaron Mosher

Ah, the ground has been broken on a new 2005 season. A TAC car show and Driving School are already in the works, as well as a Solo1 school(now called "Time Trial") which is scheduled for some time in March. After reading this, the first RallyX of the season should already have broken ground, literally, at the Huntsville Speedway.

I also broke ground, literally, at the Sandhills Sandblast rally in Cheraw, SC. It was a tough rally, with deep soft sand that ensnared many cars. I only got stuck once, but after some unplanned assistance from a passing medical truck (they don't count as a sweep team), I finished the rest of the rally without getting stuck. Several hard slams on the deeply rutted roads caused the front and read engine mounts to break loose, causing the engine to flop around in the engine bay, constrained only by the side mounds. I pressed on anyways, refusing to retire for anything short of a total catastrophe. At the end of the day, with the car smelling of boiled-over radiator fluid, burning oil from the extreme angle of the engine, and broken exhaust headers making a thundering sound and dumping hot exhaust right onto the firewall, my perseverance was paid off by a finish, ahead of many other 2wd cars that had gotten repeatedly stuck in the soft sand.

I learned several important lessons from Sandblast:

1) Have as much ground clearance as possible, the sand

If you have not paid TAC dues, and are not a paid, current member of TVRSCCA, this will be your **LAST ISSUE**.

The club needs dues to operate.

A serious cutting-down of the newsletter mailing list is underway.

TAC and TVR are both in need of people that can be active, and share the workload needed to have events and do things.

"You cannot be a guest forever"!

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.

Cont'd on next page

Tennessee Valley Region, SCCA www.tvrscca.com

TVR meets the 2nd Wednesday 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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Please include "Newsletter" in

the subject line.

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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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Charles Wright H:(256) 353-1376 Slowautoxer@aol.com

Rally Committee Chairman

None presently.

RE Report By Mark Rothermell (Jan 13th 2005)

I apologize for my absence from tonight's (January) TVR meeting but I have been called to Hunter Air Base in Savannah, GA to take care of company business for about one day. I don't mind getting kidded by Rich to get a real job since I will be staying near the river in a suite just down the road from an interesting sounding restaurant called "the Pirate House". The February meeting may have me at Ft. Rucker to take care of more company business.

A BOD meeting was held last week to go over preliminary budgets of both the Hillclimb and Solo 1/Solo 1 school and I believe we are off on a good start to achieve success. I hope there will be handouts tonight to see what has been gone over. We will be taking the Hillclimb budget to SEDIV and look at requesting "seed" money regarding this event. I have already sent out emails regarding this issue to all of the SEDIV RE's so it may be discussed at the upcoming SEDIV meeting. John Barnett and I will be attending the SEDIV meeting coming up January 21 thru 23 at Jekyll Island to discuss both of our events as well as go to meetings regarding Solo, Road Racing, and Rally. We will also pick up championship hardware won by TVR in 2004, if you have anything that needs to be brought up/asked/picked up at SEDIV please let me know ASAP call 256-586-2886. In new business please bring up the issue of our visit to SEDIV and if TVR will pick up the tab for room/convention/gas for the representative of TVR. Our Solo 2 schedule will be on us shortly with Mike Cavanaugh taking over for John Clarke. The joint TVR/TAC schedule is already out on the forum and latter in this meeting please let Mike know how you can help when he requests volunteers.

Under Solo1 John and George will discuss important matters about each subject latter in the meeting. However, I made a trip to Scottsboro on Friday and talked to JP Parsons (Tourism) and to two businesses. The first one is a small business that is about the closest to the site with beverages, food, and gas. They want more info on the event and are looking forward to it. The second business wants info ASAP on a possible sponsorship. I would like to suggest that we look at a car show or place race cars on display for one day at the sponsors locations a month or so in advance to generate publicity about the event.

A good season ending event in the Rallycross program. I'm sure John will have more to say on this subject and I am glad to see the positive response on Rallycross in the forum. Please indicate your willingness to put on these events for the upcoming 2005 season by volunteering to put one on. One last thing, please come out to the Year End Awards Party on January 29th and have a great time with the champs and especially those to be rewarded with awards concerning the hard work displayed for 2004. MLR

Editor's Comments, Cont'd from prev page is very soft and the car was floating on its belly-pan.

- 2) Full skid plates, and as much sub-frame bracing as possible, were absolutely necessary. The hard slams we took over ruts and wash-outs were vicious. Only the sub-frame under the front of the car prevented the engine from rotating backwards and completely falling out of the car.
- 3) A good service crew is essential. In morning service, my service crew changed a rear motor mount in good time, and allowed me to rejoin the rally without being time-barred.
- 4) if you want to party all night and get drunk, do it *after* the race. At parc-expose, the morning of the rally, there was talk that one team had registered for the event and was at the hotel, but partied so hard that they didn't show up at the start of the rally. Such rumor is unsubstantiated, but the point is taken nonetheless...

Its hard to go to a TVR or TAC meeting without hearing about the upcoming Crow Mountain Hillclimb. This looks to be a great event, and I hope it becomes a recurring event for this region.

I look forward to the season full of events that TAC and TVR will be putting on. It looks to be a great year.



Aaron and co-driver Darrell at Sandhills. Picture from Marc Jarmulowicz

Want-Ads & Events





1996 VW Golf, green 4dr. 5 speed transmission. Power moonroof. 128K miles. Asking \$2500, but probably will take less because I need the money. Contact Aaron at HAL9000@knology.net

VanCleef Racing

Eric VanCleef, owner

Import repair and modifications of all kinds. Race prep and repair. Rentals available for track dates or driving schools. Roll cage work, corner scales, engine rebuilds and more......

256-851-1990

Upcoming Events:

Feb 17 TAC meeting (NEW TIME! 7pm)

Feb 27 TAC #0 Slalom

Mar 3TAC Meeting

Mar 4-6 TAC Driving School

Mar 10 TVR-SCCA Meeting

Mar 12 TAC Car show

Mar 17 TAC meeting

Apr 7 TAC meeting

Apr 14 TVR-SCCA meeting Apr 16-17 Solo 1 School at TGPR

Apr 21 TAC Meeting

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**.

<u>Date</u>	Solo 1 Event / Location	Hosting Region	<u>Phone</u>
March 5-6	Gainesville International Raceway	Central Florida Region	(321) 259-6181
April 16-17	Talladega GP Solo 1 / Solo 1 school	Alabama Region	(205) 620-2978
May 14-15	Blue Ridge Hillclimb (Sparta, NC)	Central Carolinas Region	(803) 831-2523
May 28-29	Skelly Field Solo 1 - Enterprise, Alabama	Wiregrass Region	(334) 793-2815
August 6-7	Solo Spectacular - CMP (Kershaw, SC)	Central Carolinas Region	(803) 831-2523
October 1-2	Crow Mountain Hillclimb (Scottsboro, AL)	Tenn Valley Region	(256) 837-8023
October 22-23	Nashville Super Speedway	Chattanooga Region	(423) 332-2030
November 5-6	Roebling Road Solo 1 - Savannah, GA	Buccaneer region	(912) 897-1944

The SCCA's NE Division will select the location of the 2005 East Coast Champioship solo 1

Solo 1 Contacts	<u>Phone</u> Numbers	RE / Contact
Central Florida Region	(321) 259-6181	Garry Poindexter
Alabama region	(205) 620-2978	Steve Patterson
Wiregrass Region	(334) 793-2815	Ron Gillman
Central Carolinas Region	(803) 831-2523	Martin Bartlett
Buccaneer Region	(912) 897-1944	Ted Migchelbrink
Chattanooga Region	(423) 332-2030	Bill Perry
Tenn Valley Region	(256) 586-2886	Mark Rothermel
Solo 1 Safety Steward	(334) 945-6150	Walt Wurzbach
Divisional Solo 1 Steward	(706) 891-3314	Steve Tompkins
SCCA Solo Department	(800) 770-2055	

TVR Reindeer Rallycrossers Play Santa

TVR held the (first annual?) Reindeer Rallycross on December 18, 2004. The entrants were encouraged to bring a toy for charity.

"Mark Rothermel, Eddie Jory, and I have participated in the Chattanooga Region's Ho-Ho Solo the last few years, and we all liked that event very much and liked that these events collected toys for needy kids. CR has had a hard time recently, losing thier autocross site and rallycross site. The Ho-Ho Solo was unfortunately not held this year, so we felt like we could start a Christmas tradition of our own." The Reindeer Rallycross entrants collected several hundred dollars worth of toys that John, Greg, and Ediie presented to Mrs. Smith at Christmas Charities on Jordan Lane. Mrs. Smith was very thankful and distributed the toys to local children who would otherwise not have much of a Christmas.

TVR Rallycross had not had an event since spring, being as the September event was cancelled due to low interest and several key people being unavailable. December 2001 was the first major Rallycross TVR held, at Huntsville Speedway. **The first two ever TVR Rallycrosses were held at the Kanzler ranch in Morgan Co.

A long-standing Rallycross tradition of "Jory's Junk" was upheld by the introduction of the 1988 Ford Fastiva, with a reported worth of \$52.00. This Rallycross beast was the latest in a long line of beauties, including the \$50.00 Buick Regal from the second RX at Kanzler's Ranch, The \$100.00 Pontiac 5000 now owned by John Clarke, and the \$121.00 Sunbird. Eddie has proven that RX is not a rich man's sport. The Festiva was driven by the "Furious Five" consisting of Eddie, Greg Marvin, Mark Rothermel, John Barnett, and newbie Rallycrosser Craig Farr. The little car got a lot of laughs but as usual was given very little mercy by Team Festiva who punished it with constant runs. Through radiator problems, broken motor mounts, water pump failure, popping a tire off the bead. and a brief period where Greg tried to drive it upsidedown, the little car finished the day and all five drivers got runs finished except for John missing a run due to a timing miscommunication.

Taking top time of the day was our current SEDIV Rallycross Steward, Dave Brooks from Chattanooga, in an impressive display with the 4wd Turbo Impulse. Amazingly second overall, and not by much, was Mike Cavanaugh- first time Rallycrosser, driving a 4door stock Honda Accord, winning Production and besting Eddie, the fastest of the Festiva pack. 4th was Craig in the Festiva and in fifth was Mark G, running his RX-7 and also doing well and having fun in his first forray into the

dirt. 6th was Mike's son-in-law Jimmy Brindley, also driving the stock Accord and doing well for his fist time out. Chuck in the multi-tasking Civic was 7th, Matt Sheffield from Atlanta in the 400k-mile "Desert Storm" Golf took 8th, Rich in the Datsun 510 got 9th, Charles in one of his many RX-7's took 10th, James Brooks, Dave's Brother took 11th in the Impulse, and James Lovell driving the ex-Barnett Rally Rabbit was 12th, TVR's wunderkid Shelton Wright was having fun sliding around, spinning a couple times trying to get a feel for something with fenders. Good job Shelton.

There were several first-time Rallycrossers who seemed to really have fun (the whole point) and will hopefully come back for more and help the program grow next year. Look for a TVR Rallycross possibly sometime in February. It will be hard to top our "Reindeer Games", but we will try.

-John Barnett



John (pictured), Greg, and Eddie deliver the gifts



Greg makes a hasty exit from the rental Ford Festiva

RallyX results: Feb 12, 2005

Open class

662.28 Shea Serian 03 WRX Blue

674.43 Scott Evans 04 STi Black

674.44 Nathan Cooke 04 WRX Blue

678.00 Kevin Bevis 04 WRX Silver

680.95 Joe White White Lancer EVO

681.86 Jeffrey Ligon 02 WRX Blue

685.40 Matt Bafford 04 WRX Blue

698.86 Erin Ellingwood 02 WRX Silver

700.09 Brandon Cantrell 90 Eagle Talon

729.30 Manuel Hueramo Black Sti

Group 5 FWD

619.32 Dave Brooks VW Scirocco

639.84 John Barnett VW Scirocco

Group 5 RWD

674.93 Charles Wright 81 RX-7 Red

694.87 George Bugg RX-7 Red

700.77 Spike Pannell 84 RX-7 Grey

702.40 Nate Allen 260Z Blue

728.01 Clayton Pannell 84 RX-7 Grey

729.41 Tom Rothrock 260Z Blue

748.26 S. Wright RX-7 Red

Group 2 FWD

686.22 Kyle Veilleux Rabbit GTI

700.03 Brad Clarke VW Golf White

711.38 Steve Conrad VW Golf White

Production

684.14 Mike Cavanaugh Honda Accord

697.90 Mark Rothermel VW Jetta Coupe

704.83 Mark York VW Jetta Coupe

DNF Aaron Mosher

Reindeer RallyX results (Dec 18, 2004)

Open Class

David Brooks #33-

112.93+3;110.81;109.50;110.00;110.28;106.90;105.75; Total 492.17

James Brooks #3-

118.41+5;116.5;113.94;114.25;114.75+1;114.65+1;119.8; Total 546.30

(cont'd on next column)

Group 5

Charles Wright #94-

119.13;122.44;125.65;125.62;110.87;109.5+2;108.69; Total 545.90

S. Wright #194-

 $129.3\overline{7}; 134.60; 129.53+2; 120.95+1; 116.78; 113.13; 116.5+4 (!!!); \ Total \ 594.86$

Group 2

Charles Olson #66-

121.59+2;118.28;115.00;117.18+1;111.19+1;110.75;114.63+1 Total 538 62

Matt Sheffield #71-

123.94;119.91+1;119.84;116.38;114.34;112.72;111.78; Total 540.91

James Lovell #501-

122.00;125.28;123.43+5;119.72;112.45;111.00+1;111.46; Total 557.39

Production GT

Mark Guagenti #17-

119.09;115.75;118.06;113.93;111.03+1;109.35+1;109.81; Total 521.02

Richard Pannell #197-

 $126.66;120.03+4;134.94;123.93+1;112.88;120.25+1;110.22; \ Total\\580.91$

Cobb #4- 137.14;DNF;135.06;130.78;128.00;124.50;124.40; Total 644.48

Clayton Pannell #97-

134.31+1;DNF;131.87;123.00;DNF;127.00+3;114.41+2; Total 651.53

Production

Mike Cavanaugh #46-

116.04;114.69;114.31;112.07;110.00;111.69;109.68; Total 508.48

Eddie Jory #91-

112.93;111.00+2;111.81+4;111.34+1;110.97+1;110.65;110.04; Total 514.74

Craig Farr #1- 110.78+1;113.78;111.83;109.28;109.08;108.54;DNF; Total 519.69

Jimmie Brindley #64-

117.22;118.50;114.56;115.25;112.34+1;112.50;111.00; Total 523.77

John Barnett #68- 120.78;121.90;118.15;DNS;113.25;111.31;111.94; Total 528.89

Richard Crowell #19-

124.16;123.25;118.59;118.61;115.06;112.15;111.97; Total 543.79

Greg Marvin #7-

113.12;DNF;DNF;125.87+1;112.59;110.58+1;110.03; Total 585.85

Mark Rothermel #90-

121.64;119.03;131.57;121.06;134.34;DNS;DNS; Total 704.04



TWICKENHAM AUTO CLUB

TAC meeting Number 1139 was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on 01/20/05

21 members attended. 2 guests attended.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Secretary: Brad Clarke Minutes for TAC meeting 1138 were read and approved.

President: Mark York None

Vice President: Rick Hamby None

Treasurer: Craig Farr 50th debt has been zeroed. Dues are still due. Slalom Passes are now on sale. SCCA's

insurer will be too expensive.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Activities: TAC/TVR Year End Party on Jan 29 from 7pm-11pm, more info on the web site.

SE Div meeting coming up.

Membership: None

Slalom: Slalom Committee Meeting was had on Tuesday (notes and motions attached). 2005 Schedule has

been finalized. Slalom Committee members were appointed:

Brad Clarke

John Clarke

Craig Farr

Mark York

Rally: None

Equipment: Trailer party when it gets warm. Craig has the trailer jack. Our helmets are showing their age.

Newsletter: Cost is about \$130 per issue. Newsletter is available on the web site.

Publicity: None

Merchandise: Craig brought magnetic material, \$2/foot. Rich has stuff. The sticker man lives and is working on

new stickers. Tom Rothrock has a shirt connection.

Entertainment: None

Cont'd from previous page

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Car Show: Making money with the car show was discussed. A date of March 12 is very likely.

Site: None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Forum: None

Want Ads: TVR is taking orders for rulebooks and anything else on that order sheet. See the web site to order.

Past Events: Dyno Day was discussed. 323 HP recorded for Tom Turner's non-turbo rotary!

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

January 2005 Slalom Rules Changes

Change 1 - Change Dropped Events - Result: Passed (Unanimous)

Current:

6.4 Only 90% of scores (rounded down) for the season will be used for each driver. That is, in a season with 12 scored events, only the best 10 for each driver will be counted. Example: 90%*12=10.8=10.

Change To:

6.4 If there are enough Championship Events in the season only the best events will be scored. Consult the following table for the number of events to score:

Total Events	Scored Events
6 or less	All Events
7	6
8	7
9	7
10	8
11 or more	9

Change 2 - Remove dual-entry option - Result: Passed (Unanimous)

Remove this section:

3.5.2 Vehicles: A driver may enter a vehicle or vehicles for which he is eligible in no more than two classes. The driver must choose at registration, which of these entries are to count for today's trophies and year-end results.

Change 3 - Standard pylon penalty - Result: Passed (Unanimous)

<u>Current:</u> Cont'd on next page

Independent Racket

Cont'd from previous page

3.9.2 Pylon Time Penalty: The pylon time penalty shall be one second of time for each pylon downed unless the Slalom Master increases this penalty and announces it at the drives meeting.

Change To:

3.9.2 Pylon Time Penalty: The pylon time penalty shall be two seconds of time for each pylon.

<u>Change 4 – Remove AXWare References – Result: Passed</u> (<u>Unanimous</u>)

Current:

6.5.2.2 Top 10 Overall points will be awarded based on the RTP/PAX Championship scoring as **defined in the AXWare scoring system that TAC uses to time and score its events. Essentially,** the top RTP/PAX score at each event scores 100 points and each other driver scores a smaller score calculated by: (Top_RTP/PAX_Time/My_RTP/PAX_Time) * 100.

6.5.3.2 Top 10 FTY points will be awarded based on the FTY Championship scoring as **defined in the AXWare scoring system that TAC uses to time and score its events. Essentially,** the top Speed score at each event scores 100 points and each other driver scores a smaller score calculated by: (Top_Time/My_Time) * 100.

Change To:

6.5.2.2 Top 10 Overall points will be awarded based on the RTP/PAX Championship scoring as follows: the top RTP/PAX score at each event scores 100 points and each other driver scores a smaller score calculated by:

(Top_Indxed_Time/My_Indexed_Time) * 100.

6.5.3.2 Top 10 FTY points will be awarded based on the FTY Championship scoring as follows: the top Speed score at each event scores 100 points and each other driver scores a smaller score calculated by:

(Top_Time/My_Time) * 100.

<u>Change 5 – Update protest fees – Result: Passed (1 descending)</u> <u>Modify:</u>

3.13.2 Protests: Change "A \$10 fee" to "A fee equal to twice then event entry fee"

3.13.3 Appeal: Change "a \$25 fee" to "A fee equal to four times the entry fee" and add to the end "If the appeal is denied the fee will be forfeited and shall go into the Slalom Fund."

Change 6 - Championship Eligibility - Result: Passed (Unanimous)

Current:

6.6.2 In order to be eligible for year-end awards, a member must participate in **at least 4** of the championship series events in a class and earn at least 30 worker points described in section 6.6.3

Change To:

6.6.2 In order to be eligible for year-end awards a member must participate in **more than half** of the championship series events in a class and earn at least 30 worker points described in section 6.6.3

<end>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Aaron Mosher TAC/TVR Newsletter Editor 222 Nancy Rd Madison, AL. 35758