

The Independent-Racket

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

July 2005

From the Editor:

"Help Found"

Well I got suckered... err... volunteered to take on the newsletter in Aaron's absence. I'm a new face to most of the seasoned club members, but old hat to some. With everything going on lately, I'd like to request that you keep those articles coming!

-Nathan F.

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Mike Cavanaugh burning up the latest Milton Frank course. Mike is the man to beat in B Stock with his son Josh not far behind!

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.

Upcoming Events:

Aug 27 - 28 SEDiv Solo II Divisional - Dothan
Sept 1 TAC Meeting
Sept 8 TVR Meeting
Sept 15 TAC Meeting
Sept 17-18 TVR Solo

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 starts at 7 pm.

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

"**TAC Slalom**" and "**TVR Solo**" events are driver-training events. Beginners are invited to participate; all you need is a car and a driver's license. For more information, visit www.TeamTAC.org or www.tvrscca.org.

FORUMS

www.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.

Address all correspondence, address corrections, ads, or article submissions to Aaron Mosher, editor:

E-mail: Newsletter@TeamTAC.org

The *Independent-Racket* is published free of cost for the members of the Tennessee Valley Region (TVR), Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), the Twickenham Auto Club (TAC), and the advertisers in the publication.

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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None presently.

R.E. Port for TVR

By Mark Rothermel

By the time this article gets to you there will be only about 6 weeks until the biggest event in TVR history, in some time, will take place. The Crow Mountain Hillclimb is scheduled to happen October 1-2, 2005 and it seems everyone is itching to bring it on. We are still needing worker positions filled to make this a complete event. Some of the work positions include spectator marshals and traffic control. This event is a SPECTATOR event, something we aren't used to, so the aim is to provide a great event for the drivers as well as the young and old who come to visit. We cannot wait till the day before to hear you are going to work we need to know TODAY. Call my house and leave a message at 256-586-2886 and let's get you signed up. THANK YOU to those who have already come forward to pledge to work this event. Many thanks to John Barnett who has hardly had a day off for a year and a half to get this dream a reality. For more information look at www.crowmountainhillclimb.org.

Our membership numbers are up from 86 to 106 in just a short time due to this event and the work of Mike Cavanaugh in our Solo(2) program. We have a weekend of Solo (2) action at Milton Frank Stadium on Sept 17/18. This program continues to grow with 6 events and already a promise to put us on the SEDIV Solo (2) Divisional schedule in 2006. A lot of the home team is going to Dothan for the last Divisional of 2005 on August 27/28 at Hunt Stagefield put on Wiregrass Region. Rallycross should start back up after the Hillclimb weekend with a charity event already being scheduled for the month of December. Road Racing is down but not out-we have been discussing the ability of TVR to co-sponsor a SARRC Road Race and have had many good talks about our need to learn about corner working or get involved with the Steward program. We just need the people to take time and be a part of these programs offered to learn these positions. Gotta go, got something on the burner to check out.

See you at the track.

A Pirate

SCCA SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS NEW HOME IN 2006

Sports Car Club of America, Inc. has announced that the 2006 The Tire Rack® SCCA Solo National Championships and The Tire Rack® SCCA ProSolo Finale will be held at Heartland Park Topeka, utilizing its paddock areas and road course. Additionally, the event dates move back one week and will be contested in late September.

"We're very happy to partner with Heartland Park to create nearly a month of SCCA Championship competition in 2006," SCCA Director of Solo Tasha Goodale said. "The new facility will provide ample room and amenities for the competitions and an improvement in the course surface. We're also able to move the events a week later without stepping on the Club Racing Runoffs®, which will also be held at Heartland for the first time."

The 2006 events will begin the weekend of Sept. 23-24 with The Tire Rack SCCA ProSolo Finale. Following the traditional Monday off, the four-day The Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Championships begin Tuesday, Sept. 26, concluding Friday, Sept. 29.

"We hope to continue the tradition established by David Stremming and the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority of hosting a wonderful Solo event," Heartland Park Topeka Owner Raymond Irwin "With the Runoffs and now the Solo event coming to Heartland Park Topeka in 2006, we are thrilled to be hosting the two largest amateur motorsports championships in the world in the same month."

"Forbes Field has been a wonderful host for the last 10 years and will host this year's events as well," Goodale added. "We have to extend a special thanks to Dave Stremming and the entire MTAA for being a strong supporter of the Solo program for so many years."

"That said, we're excited to move 'down the road' to begin the next chapter of National Solo history."

SCCA sanctions more than 1500 regional and national Solo competitions each year, including The Tire Rack® SCCA Solo National Tour and The Tire Rack® SCCA ProSolo National Series, as well as the annual The Tire Rack® SCCA Solo National Championships held each September in Topeka, Kan. That event hosts more than 1100 competitors, making it arguably the largest amateur motorsports championship in the world. SCCA's version of autocross, Solo has not only been a part of the motorsports ladder system for many of today's top sports

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car racers, but also remains a competitive destination in itself, featuring some of the closest grassroots motorsports competitions in North America.

For more information about SCCA and its Solo activities, please visit www.scca.com. For more information about Heartland Park Topeka, visit www.hpt.com.

Driving Suit Notice for SFI Certifications

By: SCCA National Staff

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 17.23 of the GCR requires the use of suit meeting the SFI certification 3.2A/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.

Editors Note: Our good friends (and sponsors) at Racer Wholesale (<http://www.racerwholesale.com/>) have the current SFI compliant suits if you are in the market for one. They are also up to speed on all the specifications and requirements and can recommend safety equipment for any application. With our club discount it's hard to find a better deal anywhere. Please support our sponsors!

Club Racing SRF Tire Rule Change

During the Board of Directors conference call on July 14, 2005, the following item was approved. The Board requests that GCR Section 1.2.2.C be utilized for notification:

Effective immediately, insert new section:

17.1.5.C.12. Tires

- a. A competitor shall start the race on tires used in a qualifying session for the race as identified by markings made on the tires by a race official. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that his or her tires are appropriately marked prior to (e.g. on the false grid), during, or immediately after (e.g. as the car leaves the track) a qualifying session.
 - b. For races with more than one qualifying session, a competitor shall start the race on any marked tires from any qualifying session for the race.
 - c. If a competitor chooses to start the race on any tires that were not used in a qualifying session for the race and not appropriately marked, the competitor shall forfeit his or her grid position and start from the back of the grid. This forfeiture of grid position shall not apply if all qualifying sessions for the race were run under rain or wet conditions.
 - d. A complete set of four (4) rain or wet track tires may be used at the competitor's discretion for any race. Rain tires may be in new or used condition and require no special marking if used as a complete set of four.
- Renumber subsequent sections accordingly. This revision supersedes the previous changes.

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Johnson Steps Down as SCCA President

Sports Car Club of America, Inc. President and CEO Steve Johnson announced today that he will resign from his post, effective Sept. 15, to become the President of Champ Car World Series LLC.

Johnson served as President and CEO for SCCA since June 2000, assuming the similar role with subsidiary SCCA Pro Racing in April 2001.

"Steve has been a tremendous asset to the Sports Car Club of America," SCCA Chairman of the Board Gary Pitts said. "On behalf of the Board, we are sad to see Steve go, but wish him the very best of luck with his new position."

"This is one of those opportunities in your life that you simply cannot pass up," Johnson said. "I'm very confident in the team that is in place and comfortable to leave the company and Club in its current status. SCCA is financially sound, looked upon as a leader and is in the best position ever within the industry. At the risk of sounding cliché, I'm going out while we're on top."

"While I'm moving to another Motorsports sanctioning body, it is one that is very much a partner to SCCA. I understand SCCA and its strengths. I would not have had this new opportunity without my association with SCCA, and I will remain very loyal to the Club."

The SCCA Board of Directors will begin the process to position Johnson's successor shortly.

Thinking of going to Nationals?

Time is running short of registration and hotel space. There are a few from our local area that are going and some who are on the fence. Personally I would like to go, but other commitments are going require me to be here. But if you are considering going there is a new Super 8 Motel very close to the event site. I'd suggest booking a reservation now before it fills up. If you do decide to attend the event, please notify us so we can coordinate newsletter coverage and maybe even a meal or two while you're there in Kansas. Good luck to all our entrants and may the cones dodge you!

Editorial Call to Arms

By Nathan Fowler

In today's environment, news travels at the speed of technology. With CNN, Fox News, and even our local newspapers buying into web based reporting features it's hard not know exactly what's going on at a moments notice. Even our club has adopted these ideals with the forums and emails serving our communication needs. Even though these high-speed conveniences help manage a sometimes unruly volunteer base and last minute planning, please do not forget about the newsletter and its merits. Sure you can get most of the information relayed here via the web or other medium, but actively archiving those mediums is a cumbersome task. The Newsletter provides us a way to record our history and preserve it for the future membership. Anything will suffice from reports on events to articles that affect the members.

Announcements in your personal life to "atta-boys" for other club members, we are flexible in the type of content submitted to us for print. As the interim Editor for the Newsletter I have been approached by a number of members about the purpose and reasons for the newsletter, some have even wanted to expand what the newsletter is used for, but all have agreed that the newsletter is a link to our past. So I charge you, the current membership with the task of reporting what you see. Help us shape the image of our club with your words and pictures so that all those, inside and outside of our organization, can share in our love of the sport.

Articles and other Media can be submitted via the email address newsletter@teamtac.org or in hard copy to the return address listed on this newsletter. Please make all potential content ATTN: Article Submission. Thank you for your help and support!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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