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### INDY RUNOFFS PREVIEW



THE WINNERS? We try to guess the outcome of the 2017 Runoffs



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TO THE WIRE Hoosier Super Tour battles heat up





Hoosier

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Advanti DST Storm S2



Enkei Racing PF01 bright silver, black (17 18), ack w/mach lip (17) 15 16 17 18



Enkei Racing RPF1 black, bright silver (14-18), gold (17 18), special brilliant coating (15) 15 16 17 18



Enkei Tuning TS9 platinum grey, black, matte silver 17 18



Enkei Tuning TSP-5 silver, black, gold 17 18

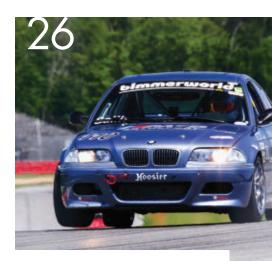


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## CONTENTS

### **SPORTSCAR**

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### **FEATURES**

### 20 SHOW TIME

Paul Schneider's secrets to success in Formula Enterprises

### **26 RUNOFFS PREVIEW**

From front-running race contenders to paddock secrets - what you need to know

- 26 WHO WILL WIN THE RUNOFFS? Did we pick you to win? Find out...
  - 28 AS, BS, STL, STU
  - 30 T1,T2,T3,T4
  - 32 EP, FP, HP
  - 34 SM
  - 36 GT1, GT2, GT3, GTL
  - 38 SRF, SRF3, FE
  - 40 FA, FC, FB, FM
  - 42 FF, FV, F5
  - 44 P1, P2
- **45** SUPER BATTLES
  The Hoosier Super Tour ain't over yet
- 46 RUNOFFS ATLAS Maps of the Runoffs paddock are helpful

#### **48** LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Behind the scenes with IUPUI's Motorsports Engineering degree

### **54** SEEING YELLOW

Committees ask the question: are the existing yellow flag rules sufficient?

#### **56 THERAPY AT SPEED**

SCCA works with VetMotorsports to build an exciting military veteran program

### **DEPARTMENTS**

#### 8 CLUB LIFE

News from around SCCA and the world

#### **12 THE CLUB BOARD**

Board of Directors Chairman Lee Hill

### 14 A CORNER VIEW

SCCA President and CEO Mike Cobb

### **16** MY SCCA LIFE

Robert Mazza's SCCA story

### 18 POBST POSITION Pacing Champ Pands

Racing Champ Randy Pobst speaks

### **58** INSIDE SCCA

- 58 LEADERSHIP Secrets to repeat volunteers
- 60 NATIONAL SOLO Inside the world of Solo with Paul Brown
- 62 ROADRALLY Rick Beattie explains RoadRally

#### 54 FIRST GEAR

Up-and-coming young members

### **66 MARKETPLACE**

You want it, someone has it

### **72** CARS FOR SALE

Your next racecar is here!

### **74** CALENDAR

Thousands of events you need to attend

### 80 TOY BOX

Essential tools, accessories, and gear

### 82 FROM THE EDITOR

This month: cooking suggestions. Yes, really

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY Luke Sluder









### IAT TRACKSIDE

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### BONDURANT AT TRACKSIDE

























### **ANDRETTI'S BIG WIN**

In 1969, Mario Andretti led 116 laps to claim his Indy 500 win. In the 1960s and '70s, Andretti also competed in Formula 1 and SCCA series like Can-Am and F5000. It's legacies like his that made Indianapolis Motor Speedway an iconic track, and why more than 1,000 SCCA racers dream of racing there at this year's Runoffs.

**DATE** May 30, 1969 **LOCATION** Indianapolis, Ind.

WHAT Indy 500

PHOTOGRAPHER LAT / Dave Friedman





### "DUDE...THAT SEAT REALLY TIES THE INTERIOR TOGETHER"







### **DON'T MISS THE RUNOFFS 5K**

There's still time to sign up for the SCCA Runoffs 5k and Checkered Flag Dash, taking place Sept. 30 at the 2017 Runoffs. In support of September's Childhood Cancer Awareness month, all proceeds from the event will benefit Maxton's Fight and Riley Children's Health.

Visit www.scca.com/runoffs for more details.



### RUNOFFS SET TO SMASH RECORDS

ompetitor registration opened on July 19 for the 2017 National Championship Runoffs, being held this year at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and it didn't take long for records to be set. In just 24 hours, 763 driver entries were registered, crushing the 413 entries made in 24 hours for the 2016 Runoffs. Shortly thereafter, the entry number eclipsed 1,000, all but ensuring that the previous Runoffs record of 709 entries set in 2004 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course will be smashed.

"As a Club, the SCCA will most certainly offer up some of the most exciting racing in the world with more than 2,000 members planning to compete at two different SCCA national championship events in September," SCCA President and CEO Michael Cobb says, noting that the Tire Rack Solo National Championships, which also takes place in September, is set for record attendance as well. "The incredible involvement stands as testament to the Club's overall health and the quality of events this organization conducts thanks to passionate members. It's the SCCA membership as a whole that makes all this possible, and each individual SCCA member should be proud of our community's collective, record-breaking accomplishments."

The winner-take-all National Championship Runoffs will consist of 19-lap or 40-minute races on a 15-turn, 2.592-mile road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The course layout consists of 10 right-hand and five left-hand turns, as well as a main straight 3,700 feet in length. The configuration includes portions of the track previously utilized by Formula 1 for the U.S. Grand Prix and currently used by the Verizon IndyCar Series for the Grand Prix of Indianapolis.

For more information about the Runoffs, head to www.scca.com/runoffs. •





### **SOLO NATIONALS CAPS OUT**

On the eve of standard registration closing for the 2017 Tire Rack Solo National Champions, the event entry cap of 1,350 drivers was achieved. Once the cap was reached, entries were placed on a wait list. Street Touring Roadster led the way with 79 entries, just a handful short of the 2016 record of 86 set by C Street (LEFT).





Nearly 30 companies have stepped up to support racers by offering contingency sponsorship programs worth tens of thousands of dollars for the National Championship Runoffs. A number of manufacturers and companies are offering cash awards for drivers in select cars and classes, such as Chevrolet, Honda, Ford, Mazda, Toyota,

and Sunoco. Meanwhile, other companies are offering product or certificates, like Tire Rack, Hawk, Summit Racing, Hoosier Racing Tire, Eibach Springs, and Bell Helmets. For a complete listing of all contingency offerings, visit www.scca.com.

Registration for Runoffs contingency programs was streamlined for this year and

was included during the event registration process on MotorsportsReg.com. However, competitors are reminded that registration in these programs is required prior to the event, and you may want to confirm that you signed up for all appropriate programs prior to Sept. 10 - changes after that date must be done onsite in tech.

### Motorsports Driver Development Expands

Shortly before the SCCA Pro Racing Formula 4 United States Championship Powered by Honda midseason event at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Jay Howard's Motorsports Driver Development expanded its lineup to include a fifth car piloted by Colin Mullan of Danville, Calif. Mullan was selected to complete the season with MDD after a successful team test at Gingerman Raceway in June.



Mullan began his racing career in 2008 at age 6. Now 15, he has built up an impressive resume of accomplishments across a variety of racing platforms, including karting, quarter midgets, Mini Cup stock cars, Spec Miata, and FormulaSPEED cars. In 2016, he was crowned champion of the

Sanzaru Games Karting series in Junior Rotax, competed in the Skip Barber Formula school, and was awarded the VMB Driver Development Scholarship, among other accomplishments. Mullan also competes in the 2017 Formula Car Challenge, racing in the FormulaSPEED class. 

Output

Development Speed Speed



### THE STIG IS UP

Perhaps best known for his work behind the scenes (and a stint as a teammate to Randy Pobst in the K-PAX SCCA Pro Racing days) Paul Gerrard has been the man behind the wheel far more times than you know, piloting vehicles for countless video productions. The most recent revelation is that Gerrard spent eight years as the Stig in the American version of Top Gear.





#### RETURN TO THE TOP With his Trans Am West Coast Championship win at Portland, Greg Pickett (LEFT and BELOW) has

won TA races in

five consecutive decades

on pole, showcased a dominant performance en route to victory, setting the fast lap and finishing the race with a lap advantage over runner-up Ken Davis.

"This means an awful lot," savs Pickett, "It's a heck of an accomplishment; to be successful in anything takes a lot of commitment, passion, drive, stick-to-itiveness - all those old-fashioned sayings that all happen to be true. But then to have sustained it, and to do something really well over a long period of time, to say nothing about five decades, that just comes down to me trying to take care of myself and being blessed with an incredibly supportive family, my wife in particular, and my children."

In TA2, Shane Lewis endured a second-half battle with Chris Cook, swapping the lead multiple times before a late spin by Cook cut the battle short. Cook would recover to finish second. In TA3, Steve Streimer showcased his skill set on his home track taking a comfortable victory in front of friends and family. And, in TA4, victory went to Tim Brown.

### Trans Am West at Portland International Raceway

On May 21, 1978, Greg Pickett claimed his first career Trans Am victory at what is now Sonoma Raceway. On July 30, 2017, some 39 years later, Pickett replicated that feat at Portland International Raceway in the Trans Am West Coast Championship presented by Pirelli.

For Pickett, the TA class win stands as the 18th of his career in his 183rd start, and adds to a now unparalleled career in Trans Am with wins coming in five consecutive decades. The victory also puts Pickett in the TA points lead for the Trans Am West Coast Championship, which will wrap up at Circuit of The Americas in November.

Pickett, who began the race

### Team USA Scholarship Candidates

hree drivers from the SCCA Pro Racing Formula 4 United States Championship Powered by Honda drivers have been selected as candidates for the 2017 Team USA Scholarship. In the first stage of the selection process, Konrad Czaczyk, Kyle Kirkwood, and Jacob Loomis, along with seven additional candidates, underwent a series of interviews conducted before a panel of judges during the Honda Indy 200 Verizon IndyCar Series event at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio, at the end of July.

Ultimately, two winners will

follow in the footsteps of a long line of accomplished professional drivers (notably Jimmy Vasser and Bryan Herta, who claimed the first two scholarships in 1990 and '91, respectively) by gaining an opportunity to take part in international auto racing events later this year.

The 2017 nomination will give Czaczyk and Kirkwood a second chance at the prestigious award. Czaczyk, was nominated for the Team USA Scholarship in 2016 and progressed through to the final round of candidates, but was edged out by fellow F4 U.S. competitor Kirkwood. Kirkwood



received one of two Team USA Scholarships, granting him entry into his first international race at the Formula Ford Festival in Brands Hatch, England, and the opportunity to compete for the Walter Hayes Trophy at Silverstone. The F4 U.S. points leader finished in the top 10 in both events.

The Team USA Scholarship is one of the most successful

### WINNING EDGE

F4 U.S. Championship racer Kyle Kirkwood is one of a select few Team USA Scholarship candidates.

and longest established driver development programs in the world. Nearly a quarter of the drivers in the 2017 Verizon IndyCar Series (including Charlie Kimball, J.R. Hildebrand, Josef Newgarden, Conor Daly, and Spencer Pigot), plus IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship stand-outs Dane Cameron, Joel Miller, Joey Hand, Andy Lally, and Bryan Sellers, along with IMSA Continental Tire SportsCar Championship leader Trent Hindman, are all Team USA alumni.

Round-two finalists will be announced later this season. •



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### FORMULA CONTINENTAL MAPPINGS

All Formula Continental competitors should be aware that the Pectel T2 ECU map for the Zetec engine is available on the SCCA website, and only this new map or the equivalent Performance Engineering PE-3 map will be considered as compliant for 2017 Runoffs. If used, the PE-3 map must be installed with Version 35 firmware.



LEE HILL
CHAIRMAN, SCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**BoD ELECTIONS** 

t's that time of year again! Elections for the SCCA Board of Directors are held each fall with a portion of SCCA's 13 Areas being up for election in any given year. This year, Area 3 (SEDiv-South), Area 4 (GLDiv), Area 9 (NorPac-South), and Area 11 (SoPac) are on the ballot with incumbents eligible for reelection in all but Area 11. Elections for Areas 1 (NEDiv-North), 5 (CenDiv), 7 (SWDiv), 8 (RMDiv), and 13 (NorPac-North) will take place next year while Areas 2 (NEDiv-South), 6 (MWDiv), 10 (NEDiv-West), and 12 (SEDiv-North) will occur in 2019. You can find your Area by looking in your membership profile on SCCA.com.

Do you have what it takes to be a Director? First, you must have the time to devote to the position – figure on 10 to 20 hours per week – plus travel to Board meetings and certain SCCA events will be required six to eight times per year. Second, you must be prepared to devote the effort and attention that this position deserves. This is not a Board on which one serves by just attending occasional meetings to vote on a half dozen items and head for home. Third, you must have

both written and verbal communication skills. BoD members spend several dozen hours a month on the phone and deal with countless e-mails. It's also important to stay up-to-date on the various activities of the Club, which requires regular reading - both from "official" sources and lurking on various forums. Finally, while there's no specific business skill set required, it is critical that you realize that BoD responsibilities are to the entire Club, not just to a particular Region or activity.

A director must be prepared to keep the various demands and priorities in balance and focus on the overall success of the SCCA. Remember that Directors are elected by the Club members in their Area, and represent those constituents on the National Board, so they must be responsive to them yet also fulfill their responsibilities to the Club as a whole. This is where the Board can get bogged down in micromanagement of individual programs and rules making rather than performing its proper function of setting strategic direction. The practical implication of this for a Director is that issues of importance to constituents may not be in the long-term best interest of the Club as a whole. An effective Director must be able to balance these competing priorities.

importance to constituents may not be in the long-term best interest of the Club as a whole. An effective Director must be able to balance these competing priorities.

If you think you'd like to run for the BoD, you will need to get 20 members in good standing from your Area to nominate you by signing your nomination form. Contact Aimee Thoennes (athoennes@scca.com) for a copy of the form. Completed nomination forms must be received by the SCCA in Topeka, Kan., by Oct. 1.

BoD service is a lot of work but it is also a great opportunity to help

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

For complete details on the SCCA Membership Drive Contest, log in to ams.scca.com and look under "Forms."

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE REFERRAL

LLADERSTOR MAT 2017				
Brian Ghidinelii	39	San Francisco		
Gayle Jardine	29	Cal Club		
Gal Mesika	16	Washington DC		
Karen McCoy	10	Oregon		
Yunfan Wu	10	San Francisco		
Peter Cline	9	Ohio Valley		
Darren Gunn	9	Central Florida		
Justin Batten	8	Tennessee		
Lynn Bertin	8	Detroit		
Derrick Taylor	8	Buccaneer		
Uwanah Udofia	8	San Francisco		

1,100 additional members have at least one referral.

#### **REGION LEADERS**

(Category based on 2016 year-end membership)
REGION GROWTH

### JUMBO REGIONS (800+): Northwest 12.3% Texas 10.9%

### Washington DC 8.7% LARGE REGIONS (401-799): Kansas City 22.4% Indianapolis 12.3%

### Indianapolis 12.3% Cincinnati 10.3% MEDIUM REGIONS (200-400): Northwestern Ohio13.9%

### Kentucky 13.7% Susquehanna 12.0% SMALL REGIONS (<200):

Tennessee Valley82.4%
Allegheny Highlands 23.0%
Great River 20.7%



### RALLYCROSS NAT'L CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION OPENS

The 2017 DirtFish RallyCross National Championship will take place Oct. 20-22 at Heartland Park Topeka in Kansas. With that date nearing, it's time to register.

Event registration opened Aug. 1 for previous RallyCross National Championship winners from the last five years. Then, on Tuesday, Aug. 8, registration opened for all other competitors.

With the event entry cap set at 125, competitors are encoutraged to register soon. Online registration ends Oct. 17.

### CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

0		
AREA	NAME	TERM, ENDS
1	Bob Dowie	1st, 2018
2	Jack Burrows	1st, 2019
3	Lee Hill	1st, 2017*
4	Marcus Merideth	1st, 2017*
5	Bruce Lindstrand	2nd, 2018
6	Chris Albin	1st, 2019
7	Dan Helman	1st, 2018
8	Arnie Coleman	1st, 2018
9	Charlie Davis	1st, 2017*
10	Earl Hurlbut	1st, 2019
11	K.J. Christopher	1st, 2017**
12	Tere Pulliam	2nd, 2019
13	Jim Weidenbaum	1st, 2018

<sup>\*</sup> Up for re-election this year

shape the future of our Club. •

<sup>\*\*</sup> Relocating out of Area, ineligible to stand for re-election

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MIKE COBB PRESIDENT & CEO. SCCA INC.

THE FUEL FOR GROWTH

**S** CCA Nation, last month I shared a theme that went something like this: regardless of where we sit, serve, or stand as Staff and/or Regional leadership, we are here to serve the Member and those who serve the Members.

This month I'd like to build on this notion by adding that when we work together as an enterprise across the Board of Directors, the Club Racing Board, the Solo Events Board, the Topeka staff, the Regional leadership, and the tireless group of volunteers, etc., we get a sum that is greater than its parts. I truly believe this is our organizational *fuel for growth* going forward.

We stand in the midst of the most successful September in the history of the organization, if breadth and depth of participation are the key indicators of success. In less than 30 days, we will collectively execute three of our biggest events ever: the National Championship Runoffs, the Tire Rack Solo National Championships, and the United States RoadRally Challenge. I do not have the final registration numbers for these events since I'm writing this in late July, but I'm going to go out on a limb and claim victory since we have already achieved *significant* early subscription to all events with weeks of open registration left to go. Moreover, we received 763 entries for the 2017 National Championship Runoffs just 24 hours after opening registration (crushing the previous record of 413 entries in 24 hours).

So, what fueled this record success? Was it some exotic racing fuel like Sunoco SR18, a trick polished and ported head, some sticky new Hoosiers, or was it something that comes from within our organization?

From where I sit – and while I think Indianapolis Motor Speedway is absolutely a great venue for the National Championship Runoffs – it seems real success is more about *the power of our organization* when it is harnessed, focused, and directed on achieving shared outcomes. Since our organization is built around the automobile and people who are passionate about them, allow me to share a quote from Henry Ford on the power of teamwork:

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success." —**HENRY FORD** 

Mr. Ford was certainly on to something. It is as true today as it was when he first shared it. There is great power in this notion of coming together, keeping together, and working together. As we strive to serve the members together, this is how we unite the tribes, move the organization forward, and fuel our growth.

In closing, thank you for working together to make September 2017 and all the SCCA events that transpire within it truly unforgettable. And now that we have these milestones etched in the SCCA record book, I believe the next goal we take on together should be growing the Club to 75,000 members. Who's with me?

Have an alternative fuel for growth? Please feel free to drop me a note at president@scca.com. •



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ROBERT MAZZA

MAHONING VALLEY REGION | MEMBER SINCE 1996

CHEERS! Robert Mazza is passionate about his winery and motorsports. became an SCCA member in 1996 after competing in Porsche club racing for over five years with an early 911. Open-wheel racing had great appeal to me, and I started at the entry level with Formula Vee, quickly progressing to FCF and Formula Continental.

As I matured in SCCA open-wheel racing, ultimately in a D Sports Racer, things appeared to be happening a lot quicker on track, which led to a car with doors on it. In 2005, I purchased a partially built World Challenge Touring Car, a 2000 Toyota Celica GTS, from a friend who had won a championship in the GT class.

My goal was to get my pro license but, in the meantime, we completed the car and competed in two World Challenge races with my good friend Justin Pritchard at the wheel. I quickly came down to the earth, however, once the reality of the level of competition and financial commitment required for such an endeavor hit home.

Many well-known racers have gone on to become vintners and winery owners, while I, on the other hand, started my winery in 1972 and went on to race 20 years later. The winery, Mazza Vineyards, is today's largest producer of Pennsylvania wines and juices for the wholesale market.

The business expanded into New York in 2005 with a distilling operation. Today, the new location of Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits & brewing continues to grow. In fact, in 2015 it was New York State's first and only combination winery, distillery, and brewery.

I have always tried to support the sport I love so much by being a sponsor,



becoming involved with PCA, the Kryder Racing Championship, and the SCCA U.S. Majors Tour program. Currently, Mazza Wines is the Official Sparkling Wine of the SCCA ProSolo Series, along with the Hoosier SCCA Super Tour.

My passion for sports cars and wine is genuine, and I'm proud to have been able to combine my love for both. Cheers!" •

IMAGES Courtesy Robert Mazza

## EVENS-MILLER

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### RANDY POBST

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2-TIME RUNOFFS CHAMPION
2-TIME SOLO AND
4-TIME PROSOLO CHAMPION
2-TIME ROLEX 24 GT WINNER

### **BORROWED RACECARS**

ast weekend I visited High Plains
Raceway outside Denver, Colo., for
another vintage race weekend raising
money for the Morgan Adams
Foundation, The Race Against Kids
Cancer (RAKC). Morgan is fearless
leader Joan Slaughter's daughter,
who tragically died 17 years ago from
the insidious disease. This sea of
troubles inspired Joan and her

"Again, you video-game paddle shifters are missing out on one of racing's great pleasures"

> husband to take arms against it, and by opposing, work to end it. Her impassioned description of where the money goes and the children they have helped made me a true believer.

I almost moved to the area a few years ago to work with Pikes Peak Racing, and gained a lot of friends around there. Consequently, I've gone out to High Plains Raceway to the RAKC for three years now to help the cause, but really a secret motivation is to drive cars...lots of cars. Variety is the spice of life.

I started Saturday morning in the vintage Formula Ford group, gridding almost 40 cars. Mine was a 1971 Winkleman belonging to event organizer Jamie Stiehr. Barely 900lbs, these cars were a mainstay of Club Racing for years, and *the* pathway to Indy and Formula 1. Technology, cost creep, and "spec" series competition whittled down the fields, but the cars are alive and well in Denver.

Now, I've been a tin-top man all my life, so a lay-down lightweight is a very different experience. You slip in like putting on a shoe, pedals hidden far away, with a tiny shifter and steering wheel tight against your legs. This car had a single submarine belt, and I shuddered to think what a frontal impact might do to the you-know-what. Unlike upright sedans, the sub belt is the primary forward restraint. I think I'd be on the phone to SafeRacer (one of my personal sponsors) for a six-point right away, to straddle sensitive regions.

The little cars fit like a wetsuit and weigh only a little more – and what a view, from knee-level, peeking over the front tires. There's an intimate relationship not possible in 3,000lb "sports cars." This FF hates trail braking and loves early power, mostly drifting corners on treaded tires, which had a nasty twitch if I attacked the brake pedal, followed by a bouncing sensation (bad left-rear shock?).

On the straight, I can snap off instant dog-box shifts, and have to, or it will grind like a blender full of bolts. Fingertip paddle shifters kill the joy; too easy. The draft is huge: low-power, high-aero drag. It's a crazy feeling to race wheel to wheel so close and exposed that we could reach out and hold hands. And breezy! Take that, sweaty sedan pilots.

Next, I'm offered an SCCA masterpiece by the artist and engineer who drew, cut, welded, and tuned it: a GT2 BMW tube frame with E30 M3 four cylinder and a live rear axle. A fabulous creation, Jim Valdez did it all, over a period of years. A



dying breed, because it is just so much work. Its sequential gearbox is the best I ever tried, with quick, light action. Speaking of light, it's under a ton (FF guys giggling). Fat slicks and low center of gravity and amazing grip everywhere. At about 300hp, this homebuilt GT gem races against Porsche Cup cars with way more power and a load more weight - an interesting matchup. Watch for this very car at the Runoffs at Indy.

I run across the paddock to make another bucket-list dream come true: Steve Hargus' 1967 NASCAR Baby Grand Mustang fastback. This is a real-deal car built when new for that class, and I'm awed at the responsibility of driving it and preserving it, but I still go flat-out, 8,000rpm Ford V8 screaming at the green flag. It's so fast I almost hit the 911 and 1969 Firebird ahead of me, sticking the big hoss inside in Turn 1 and, oh, crap, how did I get here so fast I'm gonna go straight off axle hopping crackin' the Jericho tranny down into second. This is so embarrassing - I made it, whew!

Steve said it had good power - master of understatement. The whole field disappears in my mirrors as we shriek down the straight, sounding like exactly twice the revs I see on the tach. This V8 doesn't rumble, it screams. I feel my earplugs vibrate. The long chrome God's-own Hurst shifter snicks the gears guick and clean with just a lightning wave off the throttle and a yank of the just-right giant white cue ball knob. Again, you video-game paddle shifters are missing out on one of racing's great pleasures. As often happens, I didn't really appreciate it until it was gone.

The power and weight are no problem because the brakes are minimal and that rear axle hops madly when you need it most, worsening with the downshifts. The Mustang feels huge in the hairpins, ungainly even, but glides with a little tail-out TV highlight action in the fast corners. No power steering, as raced when men were men, it feels vintage and ponderous and I'm awed by the

thought of those drivers in white tee shirts, smoking cigarettes, wrestling these beasts. Rolling back into the pits, I have a real sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Yeah, I did that.

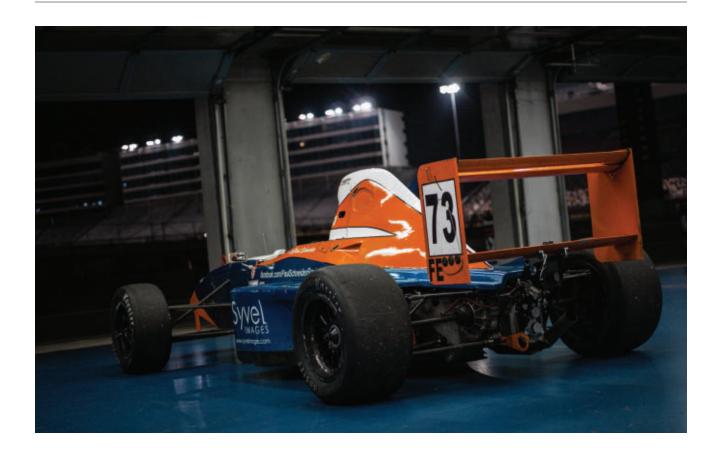
Next is one of my all-time faves, Rick and Kelly Nichols' Datsun 240Z. Gorgeous car, built for vintage, under hood stuffed with triple Webers you have to see to believe. I had a couple ratty Zs in college back when 150hp was fast. We've got double that, easy. All muscle, no power assist here, too, and a dogleg Datsun Competition 5-speed (first is offset under reverse). This puts second through fourth in the H-pattern for the race - a better plan, once you get used to it.

Real slicks and strong brakes make this one easier on the attack than the big pony car, but the locked spool rear diff does exactly what I expect: push in, loose off. Rick likes steering with the throttle, "dirt-trackin'" out of the corners, he says with a gleam in his eye. Ah, that yummy taste of the good ol' days, and all to raise over \$180,000 for the kids. Bravo, Racers!

PRO/AM
As part of his
weekend in
Colorado, Randy
took part in a
PRO/AM event
that utilized an
essentially stock
Mini Cooper. Pobst
and his teammate
finished second
to the team led by
Tanner Foust.







THE PREP
Paul Schneider
(RIGHT) and his
father put great
pride in the prep
of their No. 73
FE car (ABOVE).
Incidentally, the car
number was chosen
because their SRF
chassis was 073.



With Paul now in the driver's seat, the pair took their racing program up a notch, finding speed in the details of the spec class, and progressing to the Runoffs in 2006. There, a 26th-place start resulted in an 18th-place finish – and the Runoffs hook was set.

But while SRF offered plenty they liked in a class, Paul and his father were tempted to move on. "I was familiar with the Enterprises way of running a car," Paul admits. "It's completely spec - it's driver based. I'm very, very comfortable with that." So, in 2006 - Paul's Runoffs rookie year - the decision was made to purchase a Formula Enterprises car. "I love the

spec aspect of it," he says. "It's a driver's car, and all you have to tune is the setup. There are CSRs [Customer Service Representatives] - ours is Comprent Motor Sports - and they carry the parts for you. You don't have to carry your own inventory of parts, and if you have any damage to the car that's beyond your capabilities to fix, they have trackside support."

Unlike classes like Formula
Atlantic, Continental, and the like, FE
is a spec formula. "It's sealed engine,
sealed shocks, and a spec
transmission," Paul says of what
attracted he and his father to the
class. "The shocks are rebound
adjustable only, you can adjust
camber, caster, ride height, tire
pressures; we've got adjustable
bottom and top rear elements, and
then at the front we can adjust the
main angle and the flaps on either
side - it's basically limited to that."

But the move to the FE wasn't made in a vacuum. Around that time, IMSA introduced Lites 3, a class tailor made for the FE chassis wearing Enterprise's ESR sports racing bodywork. Paul campaigned that for a year, but when the class went away, he switched gears back to Club Racing, this time in formula-car trim.

The jump from SRF to FE didn't come easy. "The transition from the Spec Racer Ford to the FE car was a big step - at first, we were in over our heads," Paul admits, "but my dad is a fantastic mechanic."

Now retired, Peter heads the team's mechanical duties. "My dad does most of the wrenching - it's a car he's comfortable working on in the garage." And by garage, Paul's talking about the detached garage next to his house - and while they utilize the CSRs in a pinch, they aim to do everything themselves.

"We can swap a whole motor in three hours - in fact, we had to do that at Sebring in January," Paul explains. "We had to run to the airport to get a motor that Enterprises had shipped to us, and we got back to the track and even made the race. We strive to not miss a session."

Along with a learning curve, the move to FE also came with a



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### **COVER FEATURE**

philosophy change. "In 2006, when we transitioned over to the FE, that was the time we got serious," Paul explains. "It was a move to a faster car - it was time to pay attention and a time to get results."

The plan for success was twofold, covering hard parts and analysis. "There's way more attention to detail," Paul reveals of his racing program now. "It's looking at data and trying to figure out what we can do to the car to make it better. I'm doing that, and my dad is going over the car to make sure it's reliable, trying to prevent any sort of mechanical failure, because, after all, it's racing and a lot can go wrong."

The first big payoff came at the 2015 Runoffs at Daytona International Speedway with a third-place finish. "Obviously, I would have liked to have finished first, but that was my first Runoffs podium," he says. "Then in 2016, we ended up making a last-ditch effort to make it [to the Runoffs]. I'd never been to Mid-Ohio, [but] I did one test day, and then we got on the podium."

This success has fueled Paul's drive to win, and he has high hopes for the

PIALED IN
Peter Schneider
(BELOW) goes
through the nuts
and bolts while
Paul (BOTTOM
RIGHT) sorts through
session data, all in
the hunt for victory
(BOTTOM).











2017 Runoffs at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in late September. "I want to kiss the bricks," Paul beams. "It's Indy. We're going to make sure everything is perfect on the car."

This is a lesson Paul and his father learned the hard way - take, for example, the 2013 Runoffs when a simple oversight turned a fourth-place start into massive disappointment. "In 2013, [SCCA Enterprises'] Mike Davies was inspecting gearboxes and then drilling a hole through the casing.

Well, we didn't re-secure our rain light properly and, during the race, the rain light wire got into the actuator and I couldn't up-shift. It was unbelievable to spend the whole season getting there and then have something like that take you out."

So, what does the future hold? Aside from a dream of winning the Runoffs, Paul has considered a move to the Gen3 SRF. "Since the Gen3, I've been asked to go back to Spec Racers," Paul says, admitting, "There are more competitors. But I love the open-wheel feel and everything involved with an open-wheel car."

No matter how this year's Runoffs ends, Paul wouldn't trade his racing journey for anything because it has brought far more than on-track thrills. "I have a brother and a sister, but I'm into motorsports and so is my dad, and we've bonded over that," he says, taking a moment to thank his dad for the opportunities he afforded him. "He believed in me," he says. •

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS (ABOVE) Specstyle racing with just enough tuning versatility is what drew Paul Schneider to FE.

# WHO WILL WIN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RUNOFFS?

With the 2017 Runoffs around the corner, we attempt to predict the winners, just like last year – but this time we'll get some right | words SportsCar staff

hen it was announced that Indianapolis Motor Speedway would host the 2017 National Championship Runoffs on Sept. 25-Oct. 1, it was obvious things were about to get real. All race season the buzz has been palpable, and the moment event registration opened in July, records began to break. This will truly be a Runoffs like no other.

Within 24 hours of registration kicking off, 763 drivers had signed up, putting registration well ahead of the pace of the 2016 Runoffs, which saw 413 entries in the same period of time. At the time of this writing, the 1,000-entrant mark had just been eclipsed, leaving no doubt we will see the previous Runoffs record of 709 entries utterly obliterated.

As expected, a number of the 28 classes are bursting at the seams with both SRF3 and Spec Miata anticipated to flirt with the 100-car mark. But, as it happens, the track limit is 72 vehicles - how does that work? The answer appears in the Runoffs Supplemental Regulations.

First, drivers in oversubscribed classes will be split into separate qualifying sessions so that no more than 72 cars are on course at once. Either the class will split into two groups within the available time or the stewards will put some cars into a less-full group.

In the event that more than 72 cars come to the Runoffs and post qualifying times, the top 60 cars will qualify into the National Championship race, and the remaining cars will compete in a "Last Chance" qualifying race on Thursday evening. The top 12 finishers from that race will advance to the last 12 positions on grid for the National Championship race.

It's also worth noting that the Runoffs supplemental regulations also specify that a driver must qualify within 115 percent of the polesitter's lap time to be eligible to race. Drivers who do not post an eligible qualifying time may not be allowed to race without a waiver from the Chief Steward.

But those are pesky details - right now all we want to know is who will take the gold! With so many people set to descend on the Brickyard this September, the task of guessing a winner is difficult. But don't worry, that's what we're here for with our annual - and debatably ill thought out - prognostications.

Did we get all of our picks right? Certainly not - but chances are we got a few. So turn the page and start reading about your favorite classes, if for no other reason than to ridicule our outrageous podium predictions.







### **MHO MITT MIN'S**

American Sedan, B-Spec, Super Touring Lite, Super Touring Under WORDS Jeff Zurschmeide | MAIN IMAGE Jeff Loewe

#### PODIUM PREDICTIONS AMERICAN SEDAN

- 1. Andy McDermid 2. Ed Hosni
- 3. Philip Smith B-SPEC
- 1. John Phillips III
- 2. David Daughtery
  3. John Heinricy
- SUPER TOURING LITE 1. Eric Kutil
- 2. Cliff Ira
- 3. Nick Leverone SUPER TOURING UNDER
- 1. Joe Moser
- 2. Louis Rivera 3. Max Gee

In a career stretching back to 1990, Andy McDermid has stood atop the American Sedan Runoffs podium eight times, including back-to-back championships in 2015 and '16 - with the 2016 win coming in a very unlikely way via one of the most unbelievable last laps in recent Runoffs memory. Consequently, it would be silly to bet against him.

"I like our chances," McDermid says. "The car is going along really well. We found a couple more things that we're pretty happy about."

But there will be several strong contenders for this year's crown. Ed Hosni won the 2012 AS championship and ran in the lead for most of last year's race until a mechanical failure took him out on the last lap. Hosni is our choice for second place this year.

"I think that Hosni has a very fast car for a track like Indy, so he'll be a challenge," McDermid admits.

Philip Smith finished a strong third last year, and is our choice for third again this year, but also in the mix is 13-time National Champion John Heinricy, who has entered his 2002 Camaro.

The polar opposite of an American Sedan racecar is a B-Spec car, but that doesn't mean the racing is any less intense. This year, we think John Phillips III has what it takes to claim his first National Championship in B-Spec. "I've run my butt off this year as hard as I could everywhere," Phillips says, "I've been running against everybody and, hopefully, I've got it all together to pull it off."

Our pick for second position is last year's winner and nine-time National Champion David Daughtery. But he's building a new car for Indy and could easily take his 10th championship come the Runoffs. "John Phillips is certainly on his game," Daughtery says. "But I am the only one who has beat him this year. We have had fantastic races."



#### **OPPOSITES ATTRACT**

(LEFT) It would be foolish to bet against Andy McDermid in American Sedan at the Runoffs, so we won't. (BELOW) John Philips III has raised his game since getting into his B-Spec Honda, and it may be just enough to get that first win.





### **RACING STRIPES**

(ABOVE) Look for Eric Kutil to move one step up the podium in Super Touring Lite. (BELOW) Joe Moser nearly pulled off the Super Touring Under/E Production double in 2016, and we expect he will defend his STU title thanks to few tricks he has up his sleeve.

John Heinricy is our choice for third place, but he could also make a play for the win. With 13 National Championships to his credit, Heinricy is always a strong contender. Phillips has some other drivers in mind as well.

"I would never count out Joe Gersch," Phillips reckons. "He's been running real strong all year long, and Brian Kelm is a past National Champion. I wouldn't count any of these guys out."

After winning back-to-back championships in Super Touring Lite, Kevin Boehm has moved to Super Touring Under this year, clearing the way for last year's runner-up Eric Kutil to be our pick to take the STL



championship. Kutil is an engineer at Honda in Ohio, and will be driving his 1992 Civic with Acura power.

"I've been a Honda guy my whole life," Kutil says. "Working at Honda, I met a lot of other engineers and a lot of those guys have been racing STL and STU, so they've got a lot of knowledge."

Our second place pick is Cliff Ira, who won the STL championship in 2014, finished second in 2015, and third last year. Our pick for third is Nick Leverone, who finished fourth last year, and fifth in 2015.

"I haven't raced against Cliff this year," Kutil admits. "I'm also kind of worried about Danny Steyn because I haven't raced with him at all.

Leverone is one of the few people who beat me this year. I think he's a really good driver. Regarding Hondas, Brian Shanfeld is pretty quick - he's been giving me a lot of problems this year."

Kevin Boehm's move to Super Touring Under could shake things up in that class, but our pick to win STU this year is the reigning champion Joe Moser. Moser campaigns his 1993 Honda Prelude in both STU and in E Production. "This year we worked on reliability, and the results showed," Moser says. "Six poles, six wins, and three track records in E Prod racing. We do have some things up our sleeve for the STU race this year. We think we're going to have a little more power this time around."

Our picks for the rest of the STU podium are Luis Rivera for second and Max Gee to make the podium in third. But those aren't necessarily the drivers keeping Moser up at night. "There are two guys who worry me the most, actually," Moser says. "Number one is Rob Huffmaster. He's an incredible driver and his car is finally coming together. Then there's John Schmitt. Of course, John's always going to be at the top. I'd say those are the two guys who scare me the most."

Other dark horse STU contenders could include Brad McCall and John Weisberg, assuming that Boehm doesn't upset the apple cart. •



#### THE GRAND TOUR

(LEFT) Look for Andrew Aquilante to take T1. (BELOW from top to bottom) Kurt Rezzetano has a lock on T2. Ali Salih looks strong in T3. No one will be close to Oscar Jackson Jr. in T4.





### MHO MITT MIN'S

Touring 1, Touring 2, Touring 3, Touring 4
WORDS Jason Isley | MAIN IMAGE Mark Weber

### PODIUM PREDICTIONS

### TOURING 1

- 1. Andrew Aquilante 2. Marc Hoover
- 3 Mark Boden
- TOURING 2

### 1. Kurt Rezzetano

- 2. John Buttermore
- 3. Michael Lavigne

### TOURING 3

- 1. Ali Salih
- 2. Marshall Mast

### 3. Derek Kulach TOURING 4

- 1. Oscar Jackson Jr.
- 2. Darren Seltzer
- 2. Darren Seltzer
  3 Don Knowles

n Sept. 29, the Runoffs races kick off with Touring 1, and this won't likely disappoint. Our go-to pick for T1 is once again Andrew Aquilante. In 2016, Aquilante didn't have his new Mustang ready, opting instead to jump into one of the Phoenix Corvettes. Aquilante qualified second, and kept eventual winner Ross Murray honest up until the engine in his C7 expired.

With more time in the shop to prep the Mustang, and the factory built racecars like the Viper Competition Coupe no longer in T1, it's hard to pick anyone other than Aquilante to win T1. "I'm never really committed to a car, especially two months out from the race, but I'd say it's a 98-percent chance it will be a Mustang," says Aquilante. "I was building the car for last year and it missed the bell, so at least I'm not in a scramble to build something."

The other thing going in Aquilante's favor is track knowledge; a commodity that very few have as the Runoffs visits Indianapolis for the first time. "I've run all the pieces of the Runoffs layout," says Aquilante. "I feel it will be very hard to pass cleanly, so getting out of Turn 1 in the lead, and not being taken

out by a hero coming from five rows back will be very important."

The rest of the podium is a bit harder to predict, as so many will be battling for those two steps. We have seen Marc Hoover make big strides with his turbocharged Mazda Miata and, if he can keep it running, it could be his year to return to the podium. Mark Boden is also a safe pick, having already recorded a Trans Am TA3 win at the Brickyard.

Closing out Friday will be the Touring 3 race, which is slated to share the track with B-Spec, making traffic management an essential skill. This class has been in a bit of flux all season, and it's hard to predict which car/driver combo has the right stuff. The BMWs look strong, and we think Ali Salih is at the pointy end of that group, but traffic could be an issue for him. "Spec E46-based T3 cars have a good qualifying pace," says Salih. "When the track ahead is clear we can put a decent time on the board. However, I have major doubts of the performance in traffic or in a wheel-to-wheel racing situation."

We expect Marshall Mast, and Derek Kulach to round out the podium, but there are also some wild cards to watch like Todd Lamb who has already raced there in his Global MX-5 Cup car.

On Sept. 30, we will see Touring 2 take to the track, and we expect to see Kurt Rezzetano out front again. "So far, to win races this year, I have had to take chances and run 110-percent every lap to win," says Rezzetano. "At Indy, it's going to be more of the same."

Look for Corvette driver John Buttermore - who, had it not been for a brake problem, might have pulled off the upset at Mid-Ohio in 2016 - to be hot on Rezzetano's heels.

We think Michael Lavigne will back up his 2016 finish, but he will have a lot of guys to hold off in the process.

As the calendar turns to Oct 1, we will see Touring 4 take to the track, and it's unlikely that anyone will challenge 2016 standout Oscar Jackson Jr. as he takes aim to defend his title. "I try to not get caught up in the results throughout the year, because the front runners change once we get to the big show," says Jackson. "I know the East Coast boys bring their best, and I look forward to the challenge."

Chasing after Jackson will be Darren Seltzer, Don Knowles, and a gaggle of MX-5 drivers. ●









#### IN PRODUCTION

(LEFT) Look for Joe Moser to claim the E Production win that slipped away from him in 2016. (BELOW) Joe Huffaker is looking to add to his collection of wins, this time with a gold medal in F Production. (BOTTOM) Can anyone prevent Brian Linn from pulling off the three-peat in H Production?



### MHO MILL MINS

E Production, F Production, H Production WORDS J. Michael Hemsley | MAIN IMAGE Mark Weber

### PODIUM PREDICTIONS

**E PRODUCTION** 

- 1. Joe Moser 2. Kip Van
- Steenburg
  3. Matt Reynolds
- F PRODUCTION

  1. Joe Huffaker
- 2. Kevin Ruck
- 3. Eric Prill

### H PRODUCTION

- 1. Brian Linn
- Jason Isley
   Ron Bartell

ooking at the current season, Joe Moser says, "With the help of Hoosier tires, King Motorsports, and most of all, my dad, we enjoyed an 'undefeated' regular season." In his opinion, "E Production never fails to produce top-notch competition, and we don't expect 2017 to be any different at Indianapolis. Everyone brings their 'A' game to the Runoffs." As Moser suggests, the EP race should be one of the best of the weekend as the field will be very strong. Moser lists Matt Reynolds, Kip Van Steenburg, Jessie Prather, Aaron Downey, Jon Brakke, Chris Dryden, and Kevin Leigh as potential threats to his championship attempt. Every one of them is a credible threat, and there are probably a few others out there who will be fast. In our opinion, this race will end with Moser on top, Van Steenburg in second, and Reynolds in third. But we've been known to be wrong.

Joe Huffaker is one of the few people who have raced at IMS before - he won the SVRA Vintage Racing Championship there in DP three years ago, and he's our pick to win F Production this year. He's optimistic about the performance of his FP Midget at Indy. "My year has gone very well again," says Huffaker. "I got qualified early and have been working meticulously on the car. Since running Daytona and showing an MG Midget can do 143mph around the banking, I've continued to tinker on the motors. Lots of testing here at Sonoma Raceway, which will additionally help for next year."

Huffaker considers "anybody with a Lotus" to be a contender for the win, although he also mentions Eric Prill and Brian Linn. We anticipate Kevin Ruck to be in the mix, too, placing his front-wheel-drive car between Huffaker and Prill.

Huffaker's also looking forward to racing at Indy again, "Just being there and taking in the IMS atmosphere was really great, especially with my dad's history at Indy." The only potential snag may be that he is racing the Midget in both FP and GT-Lite - then again, we are talking about Joe Huffaker.

Speaking of Linn, he's our pick for a three-peat in H Production. When asked about racing at Indy, Brian Linn responded, "I'm very much looking



"I really like that there isn't a 'home track' factor and it's relatively equal for all of us"

forward to going to IMS. It's probably the most iconic track in the U.S., although for the oval aspect. I really like that there isn't a 'home track' factor and it's relatively equal for all of us."

Linn has been running both FP and HP again this year, so it will be a challenge to be fast in both, but he's capable. As for the competition, he says, "Yaris, Yaris, Yaris." He thinks the track with its long straights and lack of elevation change is perfect for Jason Isley and his Toyota. But he also believes there will be a wealth of competition, mentioning Dan Meller, Vesa Silegren, Greg Gauper, Ron Bartell, Matt Brannon, and Eric Vickerman. He adds, "How can you resist the intrigue of Parker Johnstone returning to Indy?"

For our HP podium prediction, it'll be Linn, Isley, and Bartell; although maybe not in that order. •

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### MHO MITT MINS

Spec Miata | WORDS Jeff Zurschmeide | MAIN IMAGE Jeff Loewe

#### IMPOSSIBLE PICK

With such a large field and deep talent pool, picking the podium for Spec Miata is a laughable undertaking. (ABOVE) Since SM has a history of rejecting past champs, we chose a new one – look for Daniel Bender at the front of the pack. (TOP RIGHT) Jim Drago would like a third SM title, but that might be asking a bit too much. (BOTTOM RIGHT) 2016 champ Justin Hille should be able to find his way back to the podium.

### PODIUM PREDICTIONS

### SPEC MIATA

- 1. Daniel Bender 2. Jim Drago
- 3. Justin Hille

In the 11-year history of Spec Miata as a National class, Jim Drago is the only driver to earn a repeat National Championship. For the 12th year, we think that pattern will continue, and Danny Bender is our choice to wear the Spec Miata crown this year. Bender has run strong all year, taking the Sunday race win and fast lap time at the June Sprints, among other victories.

In the time remaining before the race, two things are on every driver's mind. One is that Indianapolis is a new track for the Runoffs, and no one has real experience here. The second is that with the 3,700-foot front straight, drafting could be critical in both qualifying and the race.

"That's one of the nice things about having a bunch of different practice sessions," Bender observes. "You get some time to try a couple different things. I've got a couple ideas on things I want to find."

Racing on a new track, drivers are looking for any advantages they can find. "I'm not going there to finish second," Bender declares, "so I plan on watching a bunch of video, and talking to a lot of the Global MX-5 Cup guys because they were there

earlier this year. But we all just have to play the chess match and see how it works out."

Jim Drago will also be part of this chess game, and he doesn't plan to watch the race from the back. He's our pick for second place, and 2016 National Champ Justin Hille gets our bet for third place.

"I think Danny has top-five potential," Drago says. "He's a nice guy, [it's a] very good car, and he is driving well, but my picks this year would be Chris Haldeman, myself, or Tyler Kicera. Haldeman is driving really well and will have his car ready to race."

Not surprisingly, Spec Miata has a deep bench, and there's a long list of drivers who could pull off the win on this unfamiliar racecourse.

"There's definitely a few off the top you can just sort of pick," Bender says. "Obviously, Jim Drago will be there; other guys I think have a chance include Voytek Burdzy, Justin Hille, and Tyler Kicera."

Just to hedge a little bit, we'll also add Alex Bolanos, Selin Rollan, and Michael Carter to the list of contenders. It's a new track and a very full field, so anything could happen. •





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#### **PUSHING LIMITS**

GT will see powerhouse drivers finish on top, like (clockwise from LEFT) Andrew Aquilante in GT-2, Michael Lewis in GT-1, Collin Jackson in GT-3, and Michael Kamalian in GT-Lite.





### MHO MILL MINS

GT-1, GT2, GT3, GT-Lite

WORDS Sydney Davis Yagel and J. Michael Hemsley | MAIN IMAGE Jeff Loewe

### **PODIUM PREDICTIONS**

GT-1

- 1. Michael Lewis
- 2. Simon Gregg 3. Dave Ruehlow
- GT-2 1. Andrew Aquilante
- 2. Tim Kezman
- 3. Chad Gilsinger
- 1. Collin Jackson
- 2. Joe Kristensen
- 3. Paul Young
- **GT-LITE** 1. Michael Kamalian
- 2. Steve Sargis
- 3. Joe Huffaker

he favorite to win GT-1 this year is Michael Lewis, while he attempts to shake off his second-place finish last year. "My past couple of performances have been a mixed bag, despite having a great time," Lewis says.

Lewis feels like this GT-1 field is the toughest in recent memory, so the keys to winning will be finding the setup that will finish strong as well as start strong, plus making the least amount of mistakes. In our minds, Simon Gregg and Dave Ruehlow are capable of that and will finish on the podium - but that's not to discount the returning champion Cliff Ebben.

In GT-2, Andrew Aquliante will return to add another gold medal to his collection, and we think he'll succeed. After a stellar race with Trent Hindman last year, he hopes to return to the top spot. "If Trent returns, he will be the one to beat, but he told me he may not be running," Aquliante says, admitting that he'd relish the battle. "That would be a huge disappointment because last year's race was flat-out awesome."

Although he doesn't have experience in the same Indy configuration as this year's Runoffs, Aquilante has raced on

all the pieces that make up the layout between running with Grand-Am and IMSA over the years. He also feels like the Trans Am drivers will be contenders in this year's race. "I think there will be more players up front than last year," he says. "I think the TA2 cars will be stronger with a less twisty track."

He's also not sure how he will stack up to the competition and chassis diversity. "I think the Vipers of Scotty B. White and Jonathan Start will be strong," Aguilante says, "If anybody comes with a new Porsche 991 Cup car, they could be the sleeper. Also, I think the 'traditional' GT-2 cars got some help this year, but Taz Harvey wasn't far off last year with his RX-8."

In addition to his picks, don't count out Tim Kezman or Chad Gilsinger in his new Acura NSX - we think these two will be the ones joining Aquilante on the podium.

In GT-3, Collin Jackson is looking to continue his impressive Runoffs record - in his three prior trips he's started on pole and won all three races. Despite his lack of experience at Indy, he's confident that he can manage at least a top three. "Testing and a consistent pace for the entire race will



be key to me winning again this year," Jackson says. "My car builder, engine guy, and setup engineer is one guy, my crew chief Andy Pearson, and he's been with me during the past three Runoffs attempts. If there was ever a crew champion, Andy is it, and I think we'll get it done again this year."

Joe Kristensen and Paul Young are definitely poised to battle with Jackson for the win, but don't count out Chad Bacon and Rob Warkocki.

GT-Lite saw amazing racing at the 2016 Runoffs, and we expect more of the same. Michael Kamalian will be there, and he's looking for redemption from having to drive a defensive race last year after losing his rearview mirror. "We have the speed to outrun anyone, but being a tub car in a tube chassis world, we have a slight handling disadvantage with running the 13-inch tires," Kamalian says. "I'm also not the easiest on tires, so it will be everything I can do to keep them under me for the whole race."

His competition? "The usual like Joe Huffaker, Chris Bovis, and Peter Shadowen are always up front," he says. We'd like to add Steve Sargis to that list.

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# **MHO MITT MIN'S**

Spec Racer Ford, Spec Racer Ford Gen 3, Formula Enterprises WORDS Jeff Zurschmeide | MAIN IMAGE Mark Weber

he final Spec Racer Ford championship in SCCA history promises to be one of the most hard-fought races ever seen at the Runoffs. Defending National Champion Todd Harris has thrown down a challenge. "If they want it, they have to come and get it," he declares. "I really look forward to defending my SRF championship. This is the last one, and I plan on defending it as well as I can."

Harris will be hard to beat, but our pick to take that final win is four-time SRF champion Mike Miserendino. "I'd be cool with that," Miserendino jokes about his friend Harris' comment.

We also like six-time Formula
Enterprises National Champ Scott
Rettich for second place, and perennial
contender Denny Stripling for third.
But with Harris in the race, anything
could happen. Everyone agrees that at
a new - and mostly unknown - track,
race craft will be critical. "I think it will
be like [Auto Club Speedway] where
you just have one really long drafting
stretch," Miserendino conjectures.
"I think the draft will be very
important. You've got to have a
dancing partner for qualifying."

"I love to go to brand-new tracks because it creates an equal opportunity for everybody," Harris notes. "There's always new blood that wants to shake it up. There's no backing into an SRF win, and that's what's cool."

Despite writing this month's feature prior to the Runoffs, we already know that SRF3 has set an all-time record for Runoffs entries this year. The number of cars on track will make the entire qualifying week as interesting as the race because the Runoffs rules allow only 72 cars on course - dozens of drivers may not even qualify for the championship race.

"I just ran with 72 cars at Road America for the June Sprints, and it was nuts," Harris says.



#### TRAFFIC CONTROL

(LEFT) With about 100 cars entered at the Runoffs, John Black (17) wants to start up front and set the pace in SRF3, and we think he's just the racer to do it. (BELOW) Four-time champ Mike Miserendino could close out the record books on the Gen2 SRF with another Runoffs win. (BOTTOM) Formula Enterprises looks to be wide open, and chances are good that Elliott Finlayson will swoop in for the win.





this race. Other drivers who could make a play at the front include TJ Acker, Tray Ayres, Steve Fogg, and John Tipton.

"This is the most stacked field I've ever seen in the time I've been doing this," Miserendino says. "It's everyone who has ever been fast in the world of Spec Racer, so that's pretty cool."

While Scott Rettich is our pick for two podium finishes this year, he's not our pick to win Formula Enterprises. Why isn't the most celebrated driver in the history of Formula Enterprises our pick? The six-time FE champ is devoting his attention to Spec Racers this year and dabbling in P2 instead. Therefore, our pick to win is Elliot Finlayson. Finlayson has been tearing up the Hoosier Super Tour this year, and is clearly the driver to beat in this class.

"I've had a pretty good year so far and we've been competitive pretty much everywhere we've gone," Finlayson says. "There have been a couple mishaps along the way with mechanical failures, but we're definitely hitting our stride and we're definitely figuring out the car."

Quinten Nelson is our pick for second. He's backed by Rettich and is rumored to be running Rettich's personal car, so he's set up to succeed. Our third-place nod goes to Paul Schneider, who finished third last year at Mid-Ohio.

"Yeah, Paul is a veteran with the car so he's good," Finlayson says. "Quinten has done really well this year. We ran up against him at the June Sprints. He was able to out qualify me, but we were able to beat him both days. I guess we'll see when we get down to Indy!"

Other drivers who could make a play for the front in Formula Enterprises include Justin Gordon, Dean Opperman, Flynn Lazier, and past SRF3 champion Kerry Jacobsen.

"I'm sure it will be chaotic," agrees Mike Miserendino, "but everyone's in the same boat. There could be quite a bit of luck involved with getting a clear lap on the days of qualifying."

Our pick to win SRF3 this year is the reigning champion, John Black. The four-time champion in SRF, SRF3, GT2, and GT3 has shown no signs of slowing down this year, and he's certain to be a front-runner. That is, if he can get a clean qualifying lap.

"Track position will be unbelievably important," Black says. "If you don't do well in qualifying and you're starting sixth, seventh, or eighth, you're going to be out of luck."

The long entry list for SRF3 reads like a who's who of Spec Racer championship history. Four-time SRF champion Miserendino is entered, along with three-time champion Cliff White, two-time champion Brian Schofield, current SRF champ Harris, and 1993 Spec Racer champion Jim Marinangel.

Also in the mix is our pick for second place, Bobby Sak, who finished second last year and brings an impressive pro racing and Runoffs resume to the event.

Six-time FE champion Scott Rettich will try again for his first SRF3 crown, and he's our pick for third in

## PODIUM PREDICTIONS

## SPEC RACER FORD 1. Mike Miserendino

- Mike Miserendino
   Scott Rettich
- 3. Denny Stripling SPEC RACER

#### SPEC RACER FORD GEN3

- 1. John Black 2. Bobby Sak
- 3. Scott Rettich

#### FORMULA ENTERPRISES

- Elliott Finlayson
   Quinten Nelson
- Quinten Nelson
   Paul Schneider



#### ALL ABOUT AERO

Close battles will define the formula classes, but we expect to see wins for Sedat Yelkin (FA, LEFT), (BELOW, top to bottom) Alex Mayer (FB), John LaRue (FC), and Jarrett Voorhies (FM).





# MHO MITT MINS

Formula Atlantic, Formula 1000, Formula Continental, Formula Mazda

WORDS Tom Schultz | MAIN IMAGE Mark Weber

## PODIUM PREDICTIONS

#### FORMULA ATLANTIC

- 1. Sedat Yelkin
- 2. Keith Grant
- 3. Spencer Brockman

#### FORMULA 1000

- 1. Alex Mayer
- 2. Jeremy Hall
- 3. Joe Haas

#### FORMULA CONTINENTAL

- 1. John LaRue
- 2. Robert Allaer
- 3. Robert Arrington FORMULA
- 1. Jarrett Voorhies

MA7DA

- 2. Stuart Rettie
- 3. Mike Anderson

edat Yelkin, who won Formula Atlantic three years ago, is a bit of an unwilling participant this year. "I wasn't planning on racing this year but got talked into driving again," he admits. "I went to the June Sprints but my car failed. My good friend Kris Kaiser lent me his Swift 016.a and I had to start 18th and last. I was fortunate to finish fifth, then won the main event on Sunday. My own car, a Toyota powered Swift 014.a is slower than the 016.a, so I am working with K-Hill Motorsports, which is preparing a 016.a for me."

Yelkin has won four other times this season and will be battling perennial threat Keith Grant in the Polestar Swift 016.a. Grant has two wins and is unlucky to not have at least one Runoffs crown. He has a number of seconds and thirds, including last year, and should push Yelkin closely. Young Spencer Brockman has three wins, but has been driving an older Swift. However, he has shown good speed and can surprise.

In Formula 1000, Alex Mayer was our pick to win last year, but it came a cropper at the start of the second lap when he dropped a wheel, spun, and clouted the barrier. Mayer wants to make up for that ignominy with a win this year, and we would not at all be surprised to see him do it.

There are some obstacles in his way, however. Foremost is Jeremy Hill, who has been fast and winning for a number of years in his Photon. He has not been to the Runoffs the past two years, but is back and ready this season. Joel Haas has a Piper under his control and has scored a brace of wins in the car. Kevin Roggenbuck wants to prove that last year's win was not a fluke, while Michael Beauchamp, Glenn Cooper, and Gary Hickman are set to challenge.

John LaRue intends to defend the Formula Continental title he won last year, but will undoubtedly have a hard time. The competition this year is stronger than last and should make for a tight race. Rob Allaer is a past champion who ran well in 2016, and Robert Arrington is compiling a list of wins. LaRue sees Tim Minor as perhaps his strongest threat. "He has two pro championships to his credit and has put in some time at Indianapolis in the SVRA pro race in June. Rob Allaer crawled into his car cold at Mid-Ohio last year and almost won, while Rob



Arrington is a force to be reckoned with. "I ran at the SVRA event so the course is not new to me, although the configuration will be a bit different."

For the Formula Mazda race. Jarrett Voorhies, who had a bad day last year with a very early spin and exit, is back and determined to rectify the mistake. "Last year I have to say that my mind was not there - I was not mentally prepared for the race," he admits. "This year I am more mature and feel much better and more confident. There are many good drivers in the race, but my biggest competition is myself. I must stay focused on myself. Having said that, anybody can come out of nowhere and win, but of those I think that Mike Anderson is one to fear."

And how is he preparing? "This is my first time at Indy, but I am getting plenty of sim time. At first I was slow, but I am getting faster."

Anderson has three wins so far, while Stuart Rettie has four. Both are poised to take the top step on the podium. Last year's winner, Matthew Machiko, has not entered as of this writing, but if he does, everyone should be aware. 

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#### WINNING FORMULA

(LEFT) Should Michael Varacins claim the FV Runoffs title this year, he'll be the first FV racer in history to win three in a row. (BELOW) Calvin Stewart is gunning for redemption after an unfortunate end to last year's Runoffs F500 race - and we think he'll do it. (BOTTOM) Zachary Holden has had success in the pro F1600 series, and that will undoubtedly pay off come the FF race at Indy.



# MHO MILL MINS

Formula 500, Formula Vee, Formula F

WORDS Sydney Davis Yagel | MAIN IMAGE Jeff Loewe

#### **PODIUM PREDICTIONS**

#### FORMULA 500

- 1. Calvin Stewart 2. Wiley Clint McMahan
- 3. Russel Strate Jr.

#### **FORMULA VEE**

- 1. Michael Varacins
- 2. Roger Siebenaler 3. Charles Hearn

#### FORMULA F

- 1. Zachary Holden
- 2. Rick Payne
- 3. David Livingston Jr.

ur pick to win this year's Formula 500 National Championship is the 2015 National Champion Calvin Stewart. After starting on the pole last year and battling for the lead during most of race, Stewart was left stranded after a spin, "I'm looking forward to the biggest Runoffs ever," Stewart says. "Indy has always been on my bucket list, and I'm excited for this opportunity."

Stewart had planned to attend the SVRA race in June, but due to a mechanical issue at Mid-Ohio, he had to skip. It hasn't deterred his confidence, however. "I'm feeling pretty good, but it's not going to be easy," he says. "The competition is better than ever. It's a record field, and there are several teams that could win this year. Steven Thompson has a good set-up and will be fast, Wiley Clint McMahan is always fast and could win, James Weida has experience at Indy and will be a contender, and Michael Meuller knows how to win and has a fast car."

We also think that Russel Strate Jr., and Scott Rudolph have podium chances as well.

Formula Vee will be another edgeof-vour-seat race. But for five-time National Champion and our pick to win this year, Michael Varacins is planning to take a different mental approach than before. "This is going to be an interesting event with so many cars and so many people." Varacins says. "It's going to take some time getting comfortable with that big of an event as it's not like any Runoffs we've had before."

He's up for the challenge, though. "We are bringing the same car we've been running over the years," he says. "We've done a few development tweaks to maintain the advantage we've had over the years, including running at the SVRA [Indy] event this summer."

Data from that event could prove vital. "I've been looking at data trying to figure out whether or not it's important to be fast in the infield or on the front straight," Varacins says.

But when the green flag flies, Varacins knows anything could happen. "It definitely comes down to a lot of luck," he admits. "We will need to get away at the start and get a gap. We would be pretty hard to beat at



"We've done a few development tweaks to maintain the advantage"

MICHAEL VARACINS

that point, but I doubt that will happen with the configuration at the track."

Varacins feels like familiar frontrunners Roger Siebenaler and Rick Shields could work together to be a big threat, as could Andrew Whitson. We don't think he should count out Charles Hearn, either.

In Formula F, with their pro series experience and success at Indy earlier this year, Zachary Holden, Jonathan Kotyk, and Yuven Sundaramoorthy are all ones to watch in this class. But you can't count out last year's champion Neil Verhagen, should he choose to use his provisional.

Rounding out other podium contenders will be David Livingston Jr. and Rick Payne. Formula F will be paired with Formula 500 during qualifying, so luck will definitely play a role in vying for the important top starting spot in both of those classes. •

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#### **DEFENSIVE LINE** In Prototypes, its all about the defending champs. (LEFT) Look for Jim Devenport to repeat in P1.

(BELOW) Jeff Shafer's biggest hurdle on the way to back-to-back titles could be picking which car to race.



# MHO MITT MIN'S

Prototype 1, Prototype 2 WORDS Tom Schultz | MAIN IMAGE Dave Green

#### **PODIUM PREDICTIONS**

#### PROTOTYPE 1

- 1. Jim Devenport 2 Jacek Mucha
- 3. Jason Miller

### PROTOTYPE 2

- 1. Jeff Shafer
- 2. Sherman Chao 3. Jake Thielmann

im Devenport is the defending Prototype 1 National Champion, and he's on a run. He was third three years ago, second two years ago, and won last year. He has taken a route separate from the rest, running a French Norma M20FC powered by a 2.0L Honda K20 engine. This has been a top ticket against the motorcycle-powered cars.

Despite a CRB adjustment that has Devenport worried, he's still pulling out all the stops. "I've never run Indy before, so I will use iRacing to get familiar with it," he says. "The track does not have any elevation change so we should be able to get up to speed quickly. It is wide open as to who will win, but I think that Timothy Day and Jason Miller will be tough competition, although the Miller car has to prove its reliability."

A somewhat unknown factor is Jacek Mucha. But, with six secondplace finishes in this class at the Runoffs, why is he unknown? It is simply because he has been absent from the Runoffs for the past few years. However, he has entered this year and will be tough. Mucha runs what essentially is a Formula Atlantic Swift 016.a with fenders, and its

Mazda engine is powerful. While Devenport has nine wins this season. Mucha is right behind with eight. If Devenport is to be beaten, Mucha is the most likely to do it.

Our third pick is a fingers-crossed situation. Jason Miller has raced his Wynnfurst West seemingly forever and it has two characteristics. First, with its six-cylinder Kohler engine it is very powerful and fast. However, that is countered by its fragility. If it doesn't win, it breaks, and it has broken far too many times. If it holds together, this could - at long last - be the year.

Timothy Day has been winning in a Stohr and is the dark horse to get on the podium. There are hordes of Elans racing, especially in the Midwest, and any of them could be a factor, too.

In Prototype 2, Jeff Shafer won last year after a debate over whether to race his Stohr or Radical. He is going through the same drill this year. "I will do a back-to-back test of both cars so I can understand the strengths of both. I assume the Stohr will be preferred, but the Radical is quick and I am comfortable with it. I am still trying to get 100 percent in sync with the Stohr because I have only driven it twice

and need more seat time. The field seems deep this year and I have only raced once, so I hope that I haven't fallen too far behind in development.

"I see that Sherman Chao and Tim Day are doing a lot of work with their cars and they will be quick," he continues. "Michael Crow, Greg Gyann, and Jake Thielmann can all win, too.

His strategy? Simple, he says. "The track is new to me, but it should be an even playing field. My plan is very scientific; go out and go as fast as I can!"

Sherman Chao was the runner up last year and looks to be in the picture again this year. He and his Stohr are fast and he can mix it up at the front. Students of numerology will note that Chao was third two years ago and second last year, so maybe this is the year. Jake Thielmann got a late start to the season but has won all four of his races since then. He was on pace for at least a second last year at Mid-Ohio before a spin near the finish ended that. He is eager to make up for that faux pas.

Tim Day is running and winning in both P1 and P2, and is the dark horse for P2. He can surprise. Bryan Yates is running well and also merits consideration. •

142

134 124

135

Chris Haldeman

Grayson Strathman

Tyler Kicera

SPEC RACER FORD GEN3

123 Daniel Langon

POINTS DRIVER

POINTS DRIVER

POINTS DRIVER

TOURING 1 POINTS DRIVER 146 Marc Hoover

TOURING 3

POINTS DRIVER

142 Ali Salih 136 Cameron Evans

146 Luis Rivera

121 Brad McCall

146 Eric Kutil

146 John Black

128 Cliff White SUPER TOURING LITE

150 Nick Leverone

SUPER TOURING UNDER

139 Michael Pettiford

#### **FORMULA 500** FORMULA ENTERPRISE **FORMULA VEE** SPEC MIATA POINTS DRIVER POINTS DRIVER POINTS DRIVER 146 Jim Drago Tristan Littlehale

HOOSIER RACING TIRE SUPER TOUR BATTLES TO BE DECIDED AT THE RUNOFFS

	135 Jack Walbran		
	121	F Russell Strate Jr.	
FORMULA			

#### ATLANTIC POINTS DRIVER

98	Spencer Brockma
97	Paul Ravaris
91	Sedat Yelkin
86	Jim Mali
84	Dudley Fleck
74	Lee Alexander

#### FORMULA 1000 POINTS DRIVER

146 Gary Hickman 134 John LaBrie

#### FORMULA CONTINENTAL POINTS DRIVER

134	Robert Armingtor
125	Robert Allger

146 Elliot Finlayson 132 Quinten Nelson

#### **FORMULA F** POINTS DRIVER

142 David Livingston Jr. 134 Rick Payne

#### FORMULA MAZDA POINTS DRIVER

107	Brad Yake
102	Nicholas Malone
100	Jarret Voorhies
100	Stuart Rettie
93	William Weaver

**Brad Drew** 

#### 84 Larry Mason F PRODUCTION

POINTS	DRIVER
150	Ken Kannard
128	Kevin Ruck

POINTS	DRIVER
146	Charles Hearn
128	Stephen Saslow

#### POINTS DRIVER

146 Michael Lewis 138 Tim Adolphson

#### GT-2

#### POINTS DRIVER

102	Jorge Nazario
100	Tom Patton

#### GT-3

#### POINTS DRIVER

100	Bill McGavic
100	Collin Jackson
88	Wolfgang Maike
01	Mika Handarson

#### H PRODUCTION

POINTS	DRIVER
114	James Stevens
100	Ron Bartell
93	Jason Isley

#### PROTOTYPE 1 POINTS DRIVER

146 Jim Devenport 135 Jacek Mucha

#### PROTOTYPE 2

#### POINTS DRIVER

142	Tim Day Jr.
131	Lucian Pancea

128 Ross Wolf

#### TOURING 4 POINTS DRIVER

150 Don Knowles 138 Ryan Kowalewski

# SUPER BATTLES

As the Runoffs nears, battles for Hoosier Super Tour titles heat up | WORDS Sports Car staff | IMAGE Jeff Loewe

he Hoosier Racing Tire Super Tour racing season - the path many took to qualify for this year's Runoffs - is made up of 11 weekends and 22 races. Of those races, a racer's best six finishes count toward his or her Super Tour points total. But the Super Tour doesn't end there; the Runoffs counts as the seventh scored race, bringing some of the points battles down to the wire.

Of the 28 eligible Super Tour championship classes this year, only six drivers clinched the title prior to the Runoffs, meaning 22 Runoffs races will also determine Super Tour champions. Since the standard Super Tour points system is in effect at the Runoffs, some classes, like Formula 500, only have two drivers vying for the Super Tour title; other classes, like Formula Mazda, will have seven drivers in the hunt. Who will take these titles? We won't even garner a guess, but we can't wait to watch the battles. •



#### **HOOSIER SUPER TOUR** TITLES ALREADY CLINCHED

#### CLASS DRIVER Daniel Richardson AMERICAN SEDAN John Phillips III B-SPEC **E PRODUCTION** Matt Reynolds Michael Kamalian GT-LITE SPEC RACER FORD Richard Baldwin TOURING 2 Bill Collins

#### TITLE FIGHT

In Formula F, David Livingston Jr. (ABOVE) holds a narrow advantage over Rick Payne, but that could change at the Runoffs.

# **RUNOFFS ATLAS**

With the Runoffs at Indianapolis Motor Speedway this year, it's everyone's first time at the track – so why not consult a map? | WORDS Jason Isley



ome Sept. 25-Oct 1, an army of racers, crew, and workers will descend upon Indianapolis
Motor Speedway as it plays host to the 2017 SCCA National Championship Runoffs for the first time. Anticipation and excitement has grown throughout the season, culminating in more than 1,000 race entrants and hundreds of workers, and every one of them are ready to take part in this record-breaking event.

In an effort to keep things moving smoothly off the track, SCCA has created a series of handy maps like LAY OF THE LAND
Before you get to
the speedway, take
time to familiarize
yourself with
the layout and
the locations of
any services you
may need via the
maps available
at scca.com.

the one here showing not only the locations of key items like fuel and tech, but also the flow of traffic – and with such large groups of cars potentially being on the move at the same time, efficient and safe traffic flow is key.

It is likely that by the time you read this, you will have your paddock space location firmed up and you'll know when your on-track sessions begin, but maps like these will let you know the ideal route to get to where you are going. So take note of key locations - aside from the fuel island and tech, other important areas of note are driver information, the Stewards office, vendor row, concessions, scales, and the first aid stations. And to make life easy on yourself, we recommend scoping out these locations prior to the event kicking into high gear - it's one thing to know where the fuel island or scales are, and it's quite another to understand how traffic flows at those locations.

For more maps, head to www.scca.com/runoffs and click the "Maps" link. A traffic flow map can be found on the last page of the Supplemental Regulations. •













- 1 MAIN ENTRANCE
- 2 REGISTRATION
- 3 PADDOCK MARSHALL
- 4 TECH/SCALES/ CONTINGENCY/FUEL
- 5 GRID
- 6 WELCOME/CHIEF STEWARD/SOM/COA
- 7 STAFF OFFICE
- 8 DRIVER INFORMATION/ CONCESSIONS

- 9 RACE CONTROL/ TIMING & SCORING/ VICTORY CIRCLE
- 10 RESTROOMS/SHOWERS
- 11 VENDOR ROW
- 20 PAGODA PLAZA Main concession located in the pagoda plaza
- 21 NORTH CHALET
- 22 EAST CHALET
- 23 PARTY PAVILION
- 24 GASOLINE ALLEY
  Permanent Fuel pumps
  are located across from
  Gasoline Alley.
- 25 GASOLINE ALLEY SUITES
- 26 PIT ROAD TERRACE

- 27 GARAGE A
- 28 GARAGE B
- 29 LEGENDS ROW
- 30 TIRES
- 31 DYNO
- 32 4TH STREET
- 33 5TH STREET
- 34 6TH STREET
- 35 POLCO STREET

#### ON THE ROAD

(RIGHT) Joe Legan (left), Andrew Jefferson (center), and Chris Finch prep IUPUI's FP Miata for a session at the 2017 June Sprints. (BELOW) Eric Coletto (left), Joe Legan (center) and Andrew Jefferson work on the engine at the track. (BOTTOM RIGHT) The team prepares for a session at Road America.



For Chris Finch and IUPUI's Motorsports Engineering program, it's all about results | WORDS Philip Royle | IMAGES Dennis Wood

hree graduates work for Schmidt Peterson Motorsports in engineering, one of our first graduates works for Penske NASCAR, one of our most recent graduates works for Penske Racing, one is at Ed Carpenter Racing, one is at Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, and one of our top graduates works for the Auto Research Center," Chris Finch says when asked about success stories from the relatively new Motorsports Engineering program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. "Now, not all of our graduates go into motorsports. One of our students who wasn't interested in motorsports went to work for Ford, one student took a job with a rocket company, and another student just got a job with Tesla."

The list goes on and on, spanning companies from Ganassi Racing to Goodyear and Hoosier, but the crux is this: Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, IUPUI for short, has turned a fledgling program in Motorsports Engineering into the real deal. Finch is quick to point out that as with any university degree, there's no guarantee a graduate will get a job in the industry, but the success stories are encouraging.

However, none of this happened overnight. This story starts in the mid 2000s with longtime SCCA member Peter Hylton. Hylton joined the IUPUI staff and, being an SCCA member, racer, and holding a Mechanical Engineering degree, saw potential for a motorsports program within the university.

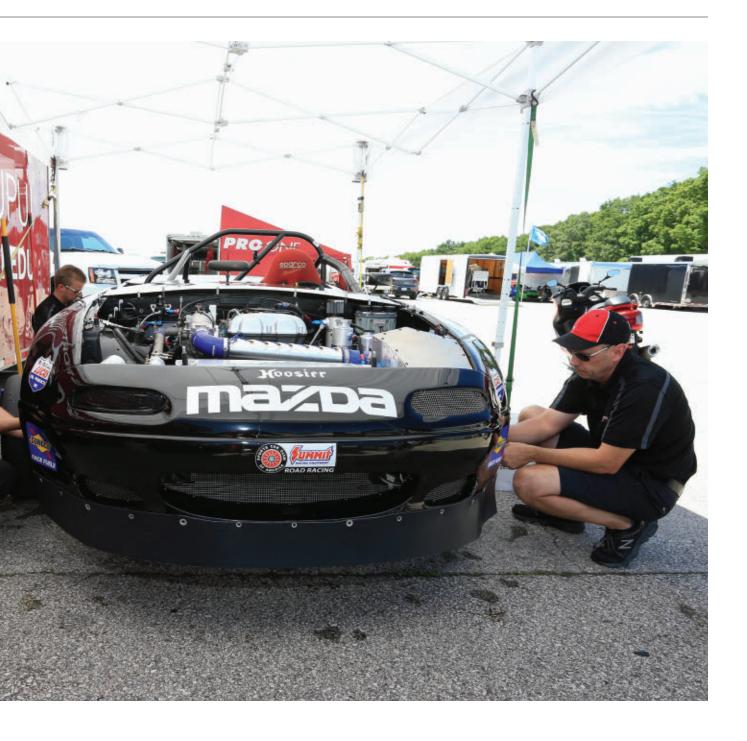
"Peter Hylton and Terri Talbert-Hatch [now an Associate Dean at IUPUI] came up with the concept of a Motorsports Engineering program, and between Pete, Terri, and the Dean, they brought it to fruition," Finch explains.



"Within the United States universities, there has been an attempt at Motorsports Engineering programs like at UNC Charlotte and even Purdue University, but they're more like certificates - there's not really an area of concentration within that topic," Finch explains. "What Pete decided to do was create a curriculum of Motorsports Engineering with the







ultimate goal of becoming an accredited engineering program within the United States."

With that in mind, IUPUI worked with the accrediting agency ABET, which accredits engineering programs within the United States.

"[ABET] comes in and asks if you're requiring all of the math and science courses that are required of all engineering programs within the United States," he explains. "It's a huge seal of approval on the program because now we can say we're the only accredited Motorsports Engineering program in the nation. It's not a certificate or just one course offering, it's a true program."

The program itself, which IUPUI officially launched in 2008,

parallels closely with Mechanical Engineering. "We do offer a five-year program where you graduate not only with a Motorsports Engineering degree but also a Mechanical Engineering degree. It takes an extra year because [the Motorsports Engineering] program doesn't require Heat and Mass Transfer while Mechanical Engineering does."



#### **GATHERING DATA**

With state of the art electronics and data gathering equipment, IUPUI's FP Miata allows the university's Motorsports Engineering students to analyze on-track data at a level similar to that of many professional teams.

Course requirements for the Motorsports Engineering degree are impressive, spanning vehicle dynamics, aerodynamics for road vehicles, motorsports design, data acquisition, and more, And, in addition, the instructors are not your average academics. "It was very important to use people who were within the industry," Finch notes. "I've only been [teaching] for three and a half years, but prior to that I had over 20 years as a professional engineer in IndyCar, ChampCar, and sports cars. The program director, Andy Boreham, has the same level of accreditation with 20-plus years in IndyCar, ChampCar, and had several years in Formula 1 with Williams and Toyota. That really sets the program apart."

The program itself, however, goes beyond the classroom - and this is where it gets really interesting. "One thing that was really important to Pete, and what sets our program apart, is that the students needed to have exposure to racing in some capacity," Finch says. To jumpstart the program, Hylton acquired a 1968 MGB, built it

for H Production, and went racing with the students. Around this time, Finch was hired to head up the SCCA side of the motorsports program (IUPUI also offers a Formula SAE program).

Finch came on board and, utilizing a student with an SCCA competition license, took the MGB racing at Mid-Ohio. "Afterward, I sat down with Pete and said we had a couple of decisions to make," he says. Finch laid out his plan for the program, which included a new racecar, modern equipment, and a professional driver. This happened in 2015, and it was around this time that rumors began circulating about the National Championship Runoffs going to Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 2017. With the Runoffs coming to IUPUI's backyard, Finch needed to act fast.

"I said we needed a car that could compete, and [Pete] said OK," Finch recalls. "He asked where I'd get the money from and I told him not to worry about it, I'd try to track the money down.

"I approached a gentleman I knew from the motorsports industry named

Al Lewis for funding for the car," he continues. "I told him I needed \$25,000 to \$30,000, and he said no problem. So, with that, I had a group of about five or six students survey the SCCA Runoffs in H, F, and E Production and come back and tell me what car we needed to buy based on performance, contingency, and what support the manufacturer could potentially supply. In the end, it basically came down to the Mazda Miata."

Finch also lined up a driver. "On the top of my list was an individual I'd worked with for a lot of years - he's a professional driver coach and runs a Formula F in the SCCA and tried his hand at professional motorsports back in 2000 or 2001 - Bob Perona."

An F Production Mazda Miata was soon purchased and shipped to IUPUI, and thus started a new adventure of racing ups and downs for both Finch and the students. "When we took delivery of [the car], we went through it, but probably not to the level we should have. We have a good relationship with Pete Cozzolino here in Indy who has a chassis dyno, and









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#### WHEEL DUTY

Formula F racer and professional driver coach Bob Perona was selected to drive the FP Miata that is engineered by IUPUI Motorsports Engineering students.

we found we had a dead number one cylinder." Jim Stewart with Stewart Engines disassembled the motor to diagnose the problem, but the bottom line was the Miata needed a new race motor.

"At this point, we were at a crossroads," Finch says of the dilemma that left the program scrambling for cash - but in motorsports, it's often about who you know. "Bob Perona is friends with Briggs Cunningham, and Briggs supported the program with \$10,000, which allowed us to get a new race engine for the car." In addition, Lee Pope of Brown's Oil Service stepped up his support from fuel to fuel and cash.

"With those two donations, that allowed us to get a race engine by Stewart and it allowed us to make the car a teaching platform," Finch says. Soon, the Miata was outfitted with top-of-the-line equipment. A Motec M400 ECU, Motec dash, and a power distribution module were installed, and Finch and a student developed a wiring harness with KSV

Looms that terminated in Deutsch connectors. "When you look at the car and the electronics, it was a lot of money, but I did it purposefully because the system that's on the car is the equivalent of what you'll find in a top level Pirelli World Challenge car," he explains. "When we're all said and done, it'll be instrumented almost to the level of an IndyCar - we'll have wheel speed sensors, damper pots, infrared for brake temperatures, and we'll be able to do the same math that's done at a professional level."

Finch's plans for the 2017 race season were lofty, hoping to be competitive in the Hoosier Super Tour and run up front at the Runoffs, with IUPUI's Motorsports Engineering students getting hands-on experience at the track along the way. Thus started a season-long rollercoaster ride. The season opener at the NOLA Super Tour kicked off with a bang as the team's only motor failed. That, however, led to the university funding a backup motor. Then success came at the VIRginia International Raceway

Super Tour where the team took both poles and wins. But that was followed by more problems at Road America during the June Sprints Super Tour - there, a missed shift left the team scrambling for another motor since their backup had yet to be completed. Despite that misfortune, Finch marks the weekend as a positive learning experience for the students, who banded together to get the car back on track.

How will the 2017 season end? The IUPUI team of students will be at the Runoffs this September, and they'll pull out all the stops. Will it be enough to run at the front of the pack and perhaps flirt with a podium finish? Finch hopes so, not only for the competitive racer inside of him, but also for the students and the Motorsports Engineering program. "In any competitive industry, [employers] are going to go for the best people - they're very driven to succeed," he says. "Professional motorsports is a sport, like football, baseball, hockey, or anything else, and they want success." •



# THE MAGAZINE FOR RACERS

# SEEING YELLOW

Jim Rogaski, Chairman of the Stewards Program and the GCR Advisory Committee, digs into the Yellow Flag Rule | WORDS Jim Rogaski | MAIN IMAGE Rupert Berrington

In the January 2017 Fastrack, the Club Racing Board, in conjunction with the Executive Stewards, put out for discussion a "What Do You Think" item addressing possible changes to the yellow flag rules in the General Competition Rules (GCR).

"The intent of this request was to open up a dialog with the racing community to get better language in the GCR to assist drivers in understanding what the Club's intent for incident safety should be," the item read. "In 2016, there were several incidents of [emergency vehicles] being hit or nearly hit during yellow flag situations. Several tracks that use track staff for [emergency vehicle] response will no longer do hot track extractions unless the course is either under a black flag all or full course safety car use. This proposed clarification would allow penalizing individual drivers instead of Black Flag All or Full Course Yellow impacting the entire field."

This inquiry from the Executive Stewards would change the language to more clearly state the intent of "slow down" and what the possible ramification may be if drivers don't slow down. Consequently, the CRB and the Executive Stewards have received a lot of responses to this request. Thank you to all of the members who took the time to comment on the proposed changes.

Based on the feedback received via letters to the CRB and direct comments to the Executive Stewards, we have made changes to the initial "What Do You Think?" The feedback received from the Flagging and Communications

community was overwhelming in their opposition to being required to make subjective calls on whether a competitor's speed through an incident was excessive. Others pointed out that the immediate drivethrough penalty was not something that could be undone if a competitor was identified incorrectly.

The CRB and the Executive Stewards do feel that two elements of the rule change are needed. The no passing zone should be more clearly defined in the GCR so that competitors and race officials have the same understanding of the zone. Also, in order to make the zone as safe as possible, cars should proceed through the zone in single file, whenever possible. The two portions may go forward as a recommended 2018 rule change.

However, just this change does not address the primary goal of making everyone safer in a yellow flag situation - other steps need to be taken. Here are some suggestions on actions that can be taken:

## The use of drivers' meetings at the beginning of the weekend.

The Stewards could lead a discussion on what their interpretation of "slow down" means, what the consequences are if drivers don't slow down, and what the consequences will be if there is body contact under a yellow flag situation. The consequences could include more use of the Black Flag All if all drivers are not slowing down, or specific individual actions.

At the morning F&C meeting, a discussion could be held between F&C officials and Race

Control officials concerning how best to identify unsafe situations in a yellow flag situation.

There could be a renewed emphasis in our Steward Training Program to bring consistency of understanding of the yellow flag rules. We know that Club Racing programs vary from Region to Region and track to track, but the basics can certainly be better addressed. The Steward Training Committee will be looking to address this while working closely with the Executive Stewards.

Included in this Steward training exercise should be consistent investigation and enforcement of



body contacts not just in the yellow flag zone, but any body contact. Consideration should be given to impounding all cars involved in body contacts after the session.

Many competitors commented that body contacts in a yellow flag zone should be dealt with more severely. The Executive Stewards will be revisiting the Club Racing Penalty Guidelines to determine if there should be more severe penalties available to Stewards in those situations. Also, the GCR has a driver







#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

For first responders to do their job, they need to be safe. Consequently, the Club Racing Board is actively seeking member feedback regarding yellow flag zones.

ends. The FIA rule seems simple enough until you think about the reality of our combined class groupings and, let's face it, the number of F&C personnel we have working our events. Some Regions may have enough F&C to staff all stations and this would not be an issue. However, a large number of Regions struggle to get enough F&C officials to meet the minimum GCR standards for staffing. In order to meet the minimum standards, turn stations are being abandoned as long as line of sight is adequate per the GCR. This would leave large parts of the track that have no incident immediately around them still under the FIA yellow flag no passing zone. Add to that the difference in speed potential for the combined classes and you can see there could be a very frustrated driver patiently waiting to get to the green flag even though they are clearly past the incident and the track is now clear.

The FIA red flag rule says that the session has been stopped and "All drivers are required to slow down immediately and proceed to the pit lane." Our Club red flag rules say "Extreme danger - the session has been stopped. Come to an immediate controlled stop at the side of the racetrack."

Basically, our black-flag-all flag rule is the same as the FIA red flag. In Club Racing, we use the red flag as an absolute last resource to bring a session to an end immediately.

We encourage anyone who wishes to comment on these issues to send a letter to the CRB with their suggestions at www.crbscca.com. •

Penalty Point System (GCR Section 7.4) that has specific thresholds for accrued penalty points in a given period. The CRB, working closely with the SCCA National Office and the Executive Stewards, should evaluate these thresholds and time periods to see if they still reflect what is needed to ensure that problem drivers are being addressed correctly.

The goal is to encourage safe racing and protection of our race officials and drivers who may be put in harm's way during a yellow

flag situation. It will take an effort and understanding on everyone's part to make these actions successful.

Another topic that was brought up in many of the F&C letters was for the Club to adopt FIA flag rules as a solution to the yellow flag speed issue. At first glance, this sounds like a good idea to make our events consistent with the FIA rules used internationally. However, on closer examination of the differences between our Club Racing flag rules and the FIA's, it is a problem.

The differences between the rules are in how the FIA defines the yellow flag no passing zone, and what to do when a red flag is displayed. The FIA yellow flag no passing zone ends when a flagger after the yellow flag displays a green flag. This typically would be the next turn station. The Club Racing yellow flag no passing zone ends after the driver passes the incident.

We are proposing to add the clarification language stated earlier in this article to help better define where the zone



THERAPY AT SPEED

Veterans, Motorsports, and SCCA, what could go right? Everything

WORDS Suzy Bauter | IMAGES Terri Brinkmeier and Pete Cline

#### SPEED HEALING

Motorsports has become an excellent outlet and therapeutic device for many veterans, and SCCA is proud to help the cause (ABOVE and RIGHT).

More than 2.8 million Americans have served since 9/11. Among them, 6,840 gave their lives fighting the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan alone. During that same time, 115,566 veterans gave up their lives to a different enemy, suicide. Eighteen percent of all U.S. veteran suicides encompass a 32-percent increase since 2001. And, though that troubling figure comprises all service members, the percentage of post 9/11 veterans among them is growing at a precipitous rate; particularly among those aged 18-29.

Why? It's known as the military-civilian divide. A chasm more and more of our post 9/11 veterans find themselves unable to navigate; one made wide by the effects of the still misunderstood emotional and physical scars left on them by their service in America's longest war. But recent research gives us new hope. It tells us that therapies focused on activity, engagement, and empowerment are the key.

- VetMotorsports official governance

The very last sentence is why SCCA started engaging with the VetMotorsports organization nearly two years ago. Autocross is active, engaging, and empowering for non-military people; how great would it be to use adrenaline and speed to

help heal our wounded soldiers? Last year, there were sponsored veteran participants at two CAM Challenge Solo events. This year there have already been three CAM Challenge events and several Regional Solo events with the successes piling up. For 2017, the SCCA
Foundation has provided a
grant to the VetMotorsports
organization; these monies enable
VetMotorsports to provide more
support for more veterans wishing
to take a turn behind the wheel at a
competitive event.

Here's how it works: A veteran with a service-related injury signs up with VetMotorsports to attend an event. There are different types of events they can choose from that address different skills and therapeutic needs. When the vet is chosen, VetMotorsports will pay for entry fees, food, and lodging required for participation and provide a car for them to compete in - that said, at this year's CAM Challenge at Mineral Wells, the vets

were given the option of driving the SCCA Mobil 1 Camaro.

Once onsite, SCCA provides Club members to coach the veterans and assist them and their companions. VetMotorsports staffers are on hand to work with the participants and aid with any specialized needs. The Region just has to make sure that these valued servicemen and women have the time of their life. At the end, all participating veterans in the VetMotorsports program become members of SCCA through the SCCA Foundation Grant Program.

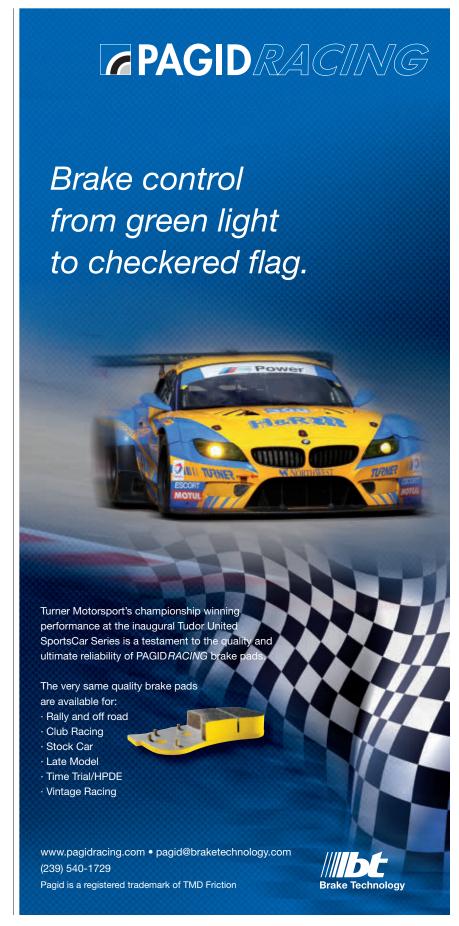
The remainder of the season will have several Regions participating in the SCCA/VetMotorsports program. We encourage all Regions to visit the VetMotorsports webpage at www. vetmotorsports.org, watch the videos, and listen what the program participants have to say.

In 2018, Regions will have the ability to get involved with the VetMotorsports program through the SCCA Foundation and the Solo Development Coordinators in each of the Divisions.

If your Region is interested in hosting VetMotorsports participants, please contact your Solo Development Coordinator and he or she can get you in touch with the right people. •

"In 2018, Regions will have the ability to get involved with the VetMotorsports program"





**INSIDE SCCA** LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



# ATTRACT, ENGAGE, RETAIN, REPEAT

Bringing new members to the Club is only the first step in healthy Region development. | WORDS Kevin Coulter, CENDiv Executive Steward | IMAGES Dave Green

ne of the constant topics of discussion is how to attract. engage, and retain members. Each topic is related, and can't be separated. We need to remember that regardless of our activities within the SCCA, we are all stewards of the Club - those charged with taking care of it. Whether you are National staff, on the National Board of Directors, in Divisional or Regional leadership, or one to simply show up at events and participate as a competitor or volunteer, we all have an obligation to steward the success of the Club. We are all under an obligation to do our part to take care of our local Regions, Divisions, programs, and Club as a whole.

Let's talk about attracting new members. We are all part of the marketing machine of SCCA and our local Regions. The easy part starts with event swag. When we receive event swag, especially things like T-shirts and hats, they should not be considered "race track only" wear. Until such items become "well experienced," wear these items proudly at BBQ's, on vacation, running errands, etc. You are a walking



HAPPY TO

From attracting

new members to

engagement and

retention, the road

to happy members

(LEFT and ABOVE)

is not complicated.

and volunteers

**BEHERE** 

And we should attract people to the Club, not to what we specifically do within the Club. While everyone wants to grow their own area, we need to be sure to get people in the door first. Laws of large numbers will ensure a good distribution within areas of the Club.

our Club has been discussed at length previously. One caution with the Internet: We have to look at how we present our Club. The Internet is a wonderful thing: however, we should choose our words carefully when discussing things that could be considered negatives. Our prospective members and our competition for members are watching.

So, we've attracted a new member - now what? We need to make sure they feel like part of the SCCA family. If you see someone new. introduce yourself. Invite them to have lunch or dinner with you. Make sure they know about Region meetings and social activities, such as banquets. When you have your Divisional convention, have an after-hours social gathering. Encourage up and coming Club leaders to come to the convention. Regions and Divisions, try to help offset the costs for these folks. As a group, have dinner together. For example, CENDiv has traditionally had a dinner off site as a group. Everyone attending from the Division (regardless of area of interest) is invited, along with a few others (nobody should ever have dinner alone at the convention unless they want to). This has become such a gathering that next year we are looking at having a private room at an area restaurant. Bonds are formed leading up to the racing season.

How do we retain members? If we keep them engaged and value their opinion, they will stay. Given the economy, we have to do some things to make sure people can afford to stay. First, always look for opportunities to reduce costs to competitors and volunteers without impacting their experience. Solicit sponsorship for worker lunches or dinners to offset the costs that ultimately get passed on to competitors. Register early - yes, that helps in planning, and ultimately cost savings. Look for the generosity of others: In my area, we have been fortunate to have an anonymous donor contribute a significant amount of money to the road racing Region's volunteer recruitment and retention program in appreciation for the volunteer efforts he has received over the years. This has had measurable results, and has helped greatly with our volunteer efforts.

Our Club is a great club. So many of us came for the cars and stayed for the people. Our Club has a wonderful 73-year history, but we need to take actions to ensure we are around for another 73. Let us all make an effort to do our part to attract, engage, and retain members. 0

billboard for the Club. Event organizers: do not consider these items as event expenses, and things that can be cut back on; these are marketing expenses and should be allocated as such. We have to do what we can to promote the Club.

The use of the Internet to promote



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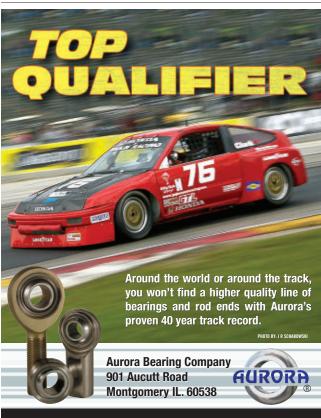
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INSIDE SCCA NATIONAL SOLO



# CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Sound restrictions in Solo can be a touchy topic, but are necessary for the sport WORDS Paul Brown | IMAGES Perry Bennett

any SCCA Regions utilize Sound restrictions at autocross events, as do the Tire Rack ProSolo and Solo Championship Tour series. For the most part, these restrictions are an effort to avoid offending local residents, therefore making it easier to retain sites - and since autocross locations are one of our dearest commodities, this is a laudable goal. But sound is a tricky topic, especially when you consider some engines are particularly good at generating noise, like six-cylinder BMWs (especially as they progress beyond a stock preparation level) and rotaries. But considering just about any engine is capable of creating obnoxious amounts of noise, this is a topic that affects us all.

The Solo Rules give event chairs authority over noise

levels. Anything the chair feels is too loud is, in fact, too loud. Since subjective rules are rarely enforced, they are rarely effective, so many Regional and National events have instituted specific requirements.

Slow response versus fast response, distance from the vehicle, orientation, whether the reading is taken with the vehicle under load or simply free revving - there are a number of different approaches to measuring sound, and therefore a number of different specific decibel limits are used. Some sites, such as Packwood, San Diego, and AMP have more restrictive limits that may be challenging for vehicles in higher preparation levels to achieve, but the limits are enforced for the sake of the overall good.

Generally speaking, there are three levels defined in any sound rule. There's the "too loud" number, where a driver is notified of the violation and required to make a change before being allowed to make another run. Sometimes any run over that limit is disqualified and sometimes there's leniency so that first violation is allowed to stand, but any additional runs won't count. At National events without a more restrictive local limit, this is anything over 100 dB. That's a relatively lenient number as 100 dB is pretty darn loud; unfortunately, we deal with quite a few cars that surpass this limit. It might be a hassle for the drivers, but it's also a rather large number of loud runs to annoy local residents.

The second level is just a

warning. Nationally, that's anything over 96 dB but under 100 dB - and that's still pretty loud. For some reason, we've got car builders who are aiming to be in this zone. Preferable to that would be to shoot for 95.9 dB and no interaction with the sound steward, which introduces the third level - the "everything's OK" level.

I'm not a muffler salesman. I'm not a sound engineer. I do know, however, that it is possible to cut sound levels without cutting power output much, if at all. There are ways to do that by spending a lot of money, but that's not the only way. There are a lot of fast cars out there that are heavily modified and clearly make a lot of power compared to their competition, yet are not needing between-runs attention to address sound issues. If you've got a loud car and don't know a good way to change that within your budget, there are quite a lot of car builders who would be



#### NO NEED TO SHOUT

It's entirely possible to increase power via exhaust modifications that don't cause hearing loss, with the result being a more palatable paddock and grid.

happy to provide some guidance - you see, they don't like to have to cover their ears when you hit the course.

If this comes across as preachy, I apologize. This is an ongoing problem that we really should not have to deal with on such an ongoing basis. ●

#### **MAKING ADJUSTMENTS**

The August Fastrack tackles Solo sound rules changes and clarifications, effective January 2018. Among the changes to Appendix I include decibel limits and adjustable exhaust exits. The proposed rule reads: "If a driver in a vehicle exceeds 100 dBA, the driver will be allowed to attempt a viable remedy to

functionally alter the exhaust system to reduce the sound level of the vehicle before his/her next run that day. (A "mechanical delay" per Solo Rules Section 6.8.D may be used.) If the excessive reading occurs on the driver's last run of the day, the Chief Steward, Sound Control Steward, or designated representative is authorized to impose a DNF penalty on that run. The use of an adjustable directional exhaust exit to laterally aim the exhaust output away from the sound meter position does not constitute a viable remedy. Adjustable directional exhaust exits may only be aimed straight up, straight down, or straight back."

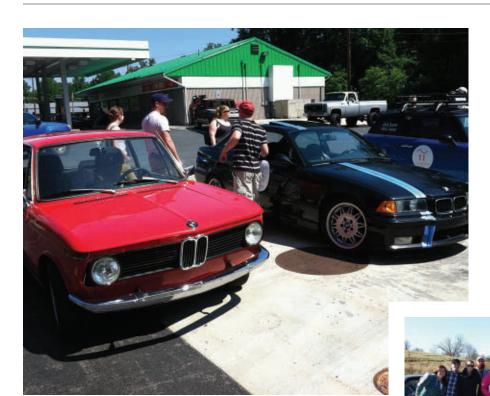
# BACK-TO-BACK DOMINATION

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**INSIDE SCCA** ROADRALLY



requirement for 21st century marketing, a Facebook page.

Appealing to the fun-first competitor, the Region prefers to run GTA events. Three of the annual GTA events are an all-day rally in the Lehigh Valley farmland, the Reger Pigge, the Food Drive annual charity event, and Apples2Apples. That one uses local orchards and farms as the checkpoints.

In keeping with that fun-first sense of humor, the entry fee for the Food Drive is at least five food donations.

"The evening campfire provided a chance to relax before the next day's drive home"

# A LITTLE REBUILDING

Philadelphia Region keeps its RoadRally program thriving despite a program reboot | WORDS Rick Beattie | MAIN IMAGE Jon Love

e all know what "rally" means, but another definition, "a mass meeting intended to arouse group enthusiasm" might sometimes better describe what's going on, at least in the Philadelphia Region RoadRally program. Losing an important member will many times trigger the end of any program, but in 2011 when Philadelphia Region's rally chair moved away, the Region was able to keep the program together.

In October of that year, current program chair Jon Love was rallymaster for the Woods of Bucks Rallye in Bucks County, north of Philadelphia. He admits to being "a complete novice at running the event," but was able to "reboot" a "program [that] has grown and evolved quite a bit since that first event."

Now about 10 to 25 teams compete in each of that Region's half dozen yearly rallies. According to Love, "competitors from the first few rallies have gone on to become the Region rally champ (Chris Wanner), rallymasters (Jaclyn love and Joshua Reger) and RoadRally safety steward (Amanda Lenhart)."

The Region prefers to run GTA style rallies and has two good reasons for which Love gave a very good explanation. Northern and Southern New Jersey Regions both put on well-written and organized TSD events, but probably more importantly, the Region's competitors just don't like timed events.

Most of the competitors from the Region itself are "actually very much autocross-based, and the crew really feels that the quality of the drive and the light-hearted fun of the event are the most important elements to their program."

Starting with that philosophy, a typical event is composed of a nearly equal mix of Region members and teams from beyond SCCA. They are marketing fun times with a nice Region webpage and a big



This year they have expanded their social rally grand tour offering to include May's Bald Driver and the July Wounded Turkey.

The July event was a more than 400-mile, two-day run from Fogelsville, Pa., to near Wellsboro, Pa., with a trip to Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon. The overnight stay was at the Stony Fork Creek Campground. They promoted the event as "not recommended for those who need the pampered life but enjoyed by those who want an adventure."

The rural highways, narrow back roads, and a bit of gravel may have confirmed that. Keeping the teams together and simple route instructions were the higher goals this time. The evening campfire provided a chance to relax before the next day's drive home. Love believes all of this "gives the Philly Region a true Club feeling."

Timing may or may not be everything in RoadRally, but good times always are. •





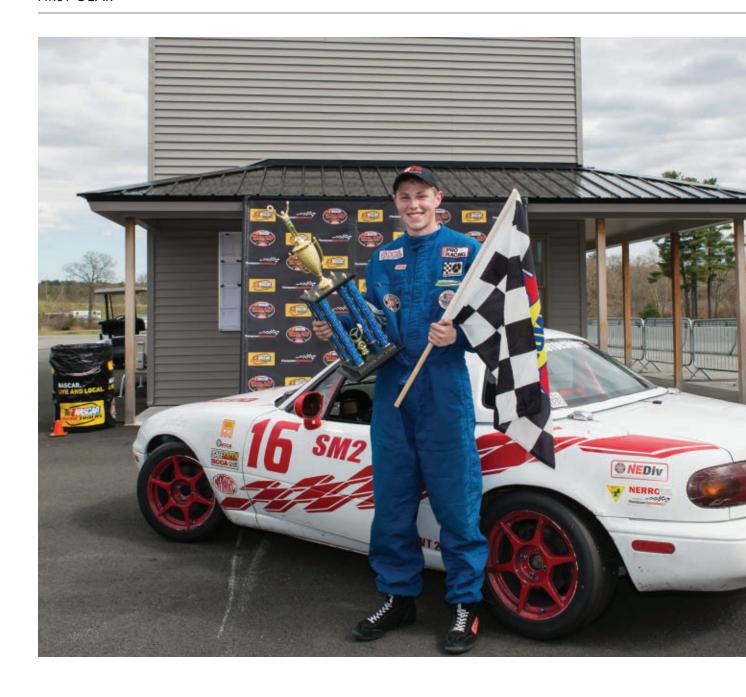


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#### LANDING A NASCAR RACE ENGINEER AS A SCIENCE-PROJECT MENTOR

It's not every day that a young high school student lands a NASCAR race engineer as a science-project mentor, but that's what Evan Karl did with help and encouragement from his family - and a lot of dedication to his motorsports dreams.

"My ultimate goal is to become a professional driver," Karl says, "but I am going to college to become a mechanical engineer so I can become a race engineer." At Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake High School in Upstate New York – Karl, during his sophomore, junior, and senior years, participated in a college-level science program for which he was required to choose a topic and find a mentor. Karl chose racing as a topic (naturally) and reached out to Joe Gibbs Racing – his favorite driver is Kyle Busch – for help in finding a mentor. JGR, through its HR department,

responded by directing him to Justin Langdon, primary race engineer for Denny Hamlin's number 11 Fed-Ex Toyota Camry

number 11 Fed-Ex Toyota Camry.

"[The HR director] came to me,"
Langdon recalls, "and said, 'Hey,
we've got this kid who's really
interested in racing and wanting to
do some engineering work in high
school so he can get a feel for it
and decide if that's what he wants
to do with his life. Would you take
him on?' And I said, 'Sure.'"



THE BIG TIME Evan Karl's mentor, Justin Langdon (right).



#### **ALWAYS LEARNING**

Evan Karl keeps busy with a full slate of classes at Worcester Polytechnic Institute during the week while improving his race craft on weekends.

# FORWARD MOTION

For 17-year-old Evan Karl, racing has led to life lessons and a clear focus on the future WORDS James Heine | IMAGES Robert Karl Jr.



his year, 2017, has been both a banner year and a learning year for Evan Karl, a 17-year-old Mohawk-Hudson Region Spec Miata racer from Upstate New York. It's been a banner year because Karl, who already in 2015 and 2016 recorded an impressive list of racing achievements, has continued his winning ways in 2017, adding another Regional win to his record, plus a pair of Majors top 10s, as well as a Hoosier Super Tour top 10.

It's been a learning year because Karl branched out from racing primarily Regional events to Majors weekends up and down the East Coast. He also graduated with honors from high school last June and now has begun his freshman year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he's majoring in mechanical engineering and planning to join the

school's Formula SAE team. Needless to sav. he's busy.

"Away from the track, I'm dedicated to my schoolwork," says Karl, who in school earned admission to national, world language, math, and science honor societies. "I was among the top five in my graduating class this June. I'm also a fitness nut, running or biking almost every day."

On track, his education has accelerated because of the move to Majors competition, he adds. This is especially true of his introduction to Majors racing at VIR's Hoosier Super Tour Easter weekend, where after running as high as eighth in the Saturday race before finishing 16th in a field of 52, he recorded a strong eighth-place finish on Sunday.

On a scale of one to 10, he would probably rate his inaugural Majors experience as a 12, Karl notes. "It's just a totally different atmosphere," he admits. "I finally got to race with everyone I watch racing Majors on YouTube, such as Danny Steyn and Tyler Kicera. You can learn so much. I also spent a couple of practice sessions just trying to learn how to draft. Up here, the tracks are shorter and it's a lot of individual work, but at

places like VIR you definitely need to learn to draft."

Karl credits his family - his dad Bob Jr., his grandfather Bob Sr., and an uncle Dominic, also race Spec Miatas and comprise the informal family motorsports enterprise, BK Motorsports - with providing the foundation for his racing career. He also has found mentors in his extended Rossini Racing family, including owners Mike and Elaine Rossini.

"Besides providing me with the equipment I need, in the beginning, my dad taught me how to drive so I can be successful now," Karl says. "At VIR, where I had never been before, we parked next to Mr. Rossini, and he helped me the entire weekend."

An SCCA member since age 5 and a veteran of race weekends and shop evenings for about as long as he can remember, the sense of family so often provided by the SCCA has been an asset he recognizes and for which he is thankful. "It allows us racers to do what we love to do," he observes.

What is Karl's advice to young racers like himself intent on a motorsports career? "Be humble, talk to everyone, and be courteous on track," he says. •

Thus began a three-year studentmentor partnership.

"It was actually several different projects," Langdon explains. "For the most part, we communicated via e-mail and a few telephone calls. I don't consider myself the best teacher, patience is not my greatest virtue, but Evan is really, really self-directed, so it was super easy.

"We started with a project where he was learning about the design of experiments, where you have multiple variables and you set up a series of tests to see the effects of all those variables, both by themselves and how they interact with each other."

For a succeeding project, Karl developed a homemade infrared tire-temperature monitoring system, Langdon adds. That project, "A Real-Time Tire Temperature Monitoring System for Race Cars," won Karl the Brown League Sports Science Award and the Yale

Science and Engineering Association Award at the 2017 Greater Capital Region Science and Engineering Fair at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"It was an impressive project for a kid from high school," Langdon says. "I'm really impressed with what he did."

How would Langdon advise a young person – such as Karl – intent on finding a career in motorsports? When you ask someone that question, many times you get the "right place, right time" answer, Langdon replies. "To some degree that's correct," he adds, "but at the end of the day, if you believe that is what you want to do, first, you've got to work really hard at being technically sound and good at what you do, and you have to pursue it – send resumes, make telephone calls. It's really about reaching out and pursuing your dream."





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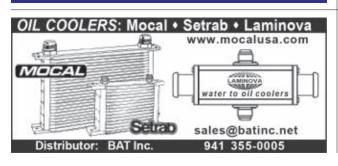


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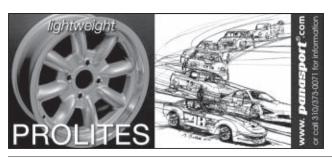
























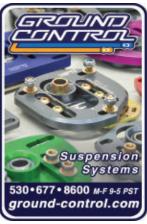
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Aurora Bearing	59
Bondurant	5
DEI	59
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Harbor Freight Tools	73
HMS Motorsport	15
Intercomp Racing	43
Koni	63
Lucas Oil	31
MAXXIS	76-77
Mazda	84
Motovicity	7
Pagid Racing	57
PRI	35
Racelogic	83
RACER Magazine	53
Racer Parts Wholesale	33
Sampson Racing	63
SCCA	81
SEMA	79
Smiley's Racing Products	51
Speedcom	37
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Summit Racing	23
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Yoyo Tires	61
Wilwood Engineering	13

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# Trans Am

TRANS AM gotransam.com Mar 5 Sebring Int'l Raceway, Fla. Ebben (TA); Machavern (TA2); Boden (TA3): Kleeman (TA4)

Apr 9 Homestead-Miami Speedway, Fla. Francis Jr. (TA); Robinson (TA2); Kinsland (TA3): Kleeman (TA4)

May 6 Road Atlanta, Ga. Francis Jr. (TA); Buffomante (TA2); Kinsland (TA3): Kleeman (TA4) Jun 3-4 Detroit Belle Isle, Mich. Francis Jr. (TA); Robinson (TA2)

**Jun 18** Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Ind. Francis Jr. (TA); Robinson (TA2); Boden (TA3): Entwistle (TA4)

Jul 2 Brainerd International Raceway, Minn. Lawrence (TA); Buffomante (TA2); Kezman (TA3); Pesek (TA4)

Aug 12 Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Ohio Aug 26 Road America, Wis.
Sep 10 Watkins Glen International, N.Y.

Sep 24 VIRginia International Raceway, Va. Oct 8 New Jersey Motorsports Park, N.J. Nov 4 Circuit of the Americas, Texas Nov 11 Daytona International Speedway, Fla

### TRANS AM WEST COAST C'SHIP Mar 25-26 Willow Springs Int'l Rcwy, Calif. Drissi (TA); McAllister (TA2); McQuarrie

Apr 29-30 Auto Club Speedway, Calif. Drissi (TA); Napoleon (TA2); Brinkop

(TA3): Dreier (TA4) Jul 29-30 Portland Int'l Raceway, Ore. Pickett (TA); Lewis (TA2); Streimer (TA3); Drier (TA4)

Nov 4-5 Circuit of the Americas, Texas

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Apr 8-9 Homestead-Miami Speedway, Fla. Reger: Forcier: Reger

Jun 9-11 Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Ind. Kirkwood; Kirkwood; Kirkwood

Jul 6-9 Canadian Tire Motorsports Park, Canada

Kirkwood; Kirkwood; Kirkwood Aug 10-12 Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Ohio

Aug 25-27 VIRginia Int'l Raceway, Va. Sep 15-16 Circuit of the Americas, Texas Oct 20-22 Circuit of the Americas, Texas





Date Track/Region Phone *numbers* are for region registrars

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sccamajors.com 2018 schedule to be announced

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Sep 25-Oct 1, 2017 Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Ind.

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NORTHEAST nediv.org

Sep 2-4 Summit Point/Washington DC Sep 9-10 Palmer Motorsports Park/New

Sep 16-17 Ro Watkins Glen/Finger Lakes Oct 6-7 Ro Thompson Speedway/New

Oct 7-8 \* NJMP/South Jersey Oct 21-22 # NJMP/South Jersey

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# SOUTHEAST sedivracing.org

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# CENTRAL cendiv-scca.org

Sep 2-3 Ro\* Brainerd/Land O'Lakes Oct 21-22 Ro\* Blackhawk Farms/Chicago Chicago TBD Land O'Lakes TBD

# SOUTHWEST sowdivscca.org

Nov 18-19 Ro\* Texas World Speedway/Texas Oct 14-15 Ro\* MSR Houston/Houston **Houston** TBD Texas TBD



**GREAT LAKES greatlakes-scca.org** Oct 14-15 Ro\* Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course/Ohio Valley

Ohio Valley (330) 460-6706

ROCKY MOUNTAIN coloradoscca.org Sep 2-3 Ro High Plains Raceway/Colorado Oct 14-15 La Junta Raceway/Continental Divide

Colorado TBD Continental Divide TBD

NORTHERN PACIFIC norpacscca.org Sep 1-3 \* Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca/ San Francisco

Oct 27-29 \* Thunderhill/San Francisco San Francisco (530) 934-4455

SOUTHERN PACIFIC scca-sopac.org Sep 2-3 Ro\* Buttonwillow/Cal Club Oct 28-29 \* Auto Club Speedway/Cal Club Cal Club (661) 304-3982

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SOUTHWEST sowdivscca.org Nov 4 Heartland Park Topeka/Kansas

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MIDWEST midiv.org

Oct 7 Iowa Speedway/Des Moines Valley Des Moines Valley www.dmvrscca.org

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GRC = Great Race Class

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NT = National Tour

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Area 7: DAN HELMAN

(281) 324-6664; dhelman@scca.com

Area 8: ARNIF COLEMAN

(719) 931-8281; acoleman@scca.com Area 9: CHARLIE DAVIS

(650) 740-7898; cdavis@scca.com

Area 10: EARL HURLBUT

(585) 993-3119; ehurlbut@scca.com

Area 11: K.J. CHRISTOPHER (213) 842-2363; kchristopher@scca.com

Area 12: TERE PULLIAM

(678) 697-9755; tpulliam@scca.com

Area 13: JIM WEIDENBAUM

(503) 327-8990; jweidenbaum@scca.com



GREAT LAKES greatlakes-scca.org
Oct 13 PDX Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course/
Ohio Valley

**Cincinnati** (330) 460-6706 **Ohio Valley** (614) 735-7561

ROCKY MOUNTAIN coloradoscca.org
Sep 2-3 PDX/CT/CRE High Plains

Oct 14-15 PDX/CRE La Junta Raceway/ Continental Divide

Colorado TBD Continental Divide TBD

Raceway/Colorado

SOUTHERN PACIFIC scca-sopac.org Sep 30-Oct 1 HC Clifton, Ariz./ Arizona

Arizona (408) 832-1327
TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

Sep 8 Palmer Motorsports Park, Mass.

Sep 11 NOLA Motorsports Park, La.

Sep 12 New Jersey Motorsports Park, N.J.

Sep 13 Pittsburgh Int'l Race Complex, Pa.

Sep 13 Heartland Park Topeka, Kan.

Sep 13 High Plains Raceway, Colo.

Sep 13 The Ridge Motorsports Park, Wash.

Sep 14 Atlanta Motorsports Park, Ga.

Sep 15 Portland Int'l Raceway, Ore. Sep 18 Pocono Raceway, Pa.

**Sep 19** Thompson Speedway, Conn.

Sep 19 Palm Beach Int'l Raceway, Fla.

Sep 19 MotorSport Ranch Cresson, Texas

Sep 20 Harris Hill Raceway, Texas

Sep 21 Thunderhill Raceway, Calif.

# SOLO TIRE RACK' SCCA SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

2018 schedule to be announced

TIRE RACK SCCA SOLO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sep 5-8 Lincoln, Neb.

# TIRE RACK SCCA PROSOLO

Mar 10-12 Lehigh Acres, Fla. Casey (Super); Towns (Ladies) Mar 31-Apr 2 Fontana, Calif. n/a (Super); Gill (Ladies) Apr 21-23 Crows Landing, Calif.

Apr 21-23 Crows Landing, Calif. Yom (Super); Wong (Ladies) May 5-7 Blythville, Ark.

Lousteau (Super); Whitener (Ladies)

May 19-21 East Rutherford, N.J.

Davis (Super); Hunt (Ladies)

May 25-27 Lincoln, Neb.

May 25-27 Lincoln, Neb.

McKnight (Super); Heaton (Ladies)

Jun 2-4 Mineral Wells, Texas

Sparks (Super); Towns (Ladies)
Jun 9-11 Swanton, Ohio
McKnight (Super); Monfort (Ladies)

Jul 14-16 Packwood, Wash.
Scroggs (Super): Trap (Ladies)

Scroggs (Super); Tran (Ladies) Aug 4-6 Oscoda Township, Mich.

Sep 1-3 Lincoln, Neb. (Finale)

# TIRE RACK MATCH TOUR.

2018schedule to be announced

# CAM CHALLENGE

Aug 11-13 Peru, Ind.

Sep 2-3 Lincoln, Neb. (Invitational)

### **REGIONAL**

NORTHEAST nediv.org

Sep 17 Splish Splash Water Park/New York Sep 17 Warminster Community Park/



Philadelphia

Sep 24 Centre County Public Safety Center/Central Pennsylvania

Sep 24 The Shops at Ithica/Glen Sep 24 Bader Field/South Jersey

Sep 24 TBA/New York Sep 24 Monroe Community College

Brighton Campus/Finger Lakes Sep 24-25 WyoTech/Allegheny-Highland

Sep 30-Oct 1 Mid States Regional Airport/ Central Pennsylvania

Oct 1 Splish Splash Water Park/New York Oct 1 Monroe Community College Brighton Campus/Finger Lakes

Oct 1 Pittsburgh Int'l Raceway/Steel Cities Oct 7-8 Williamsport Regional Airport/ NEPennsylvania

Oct 8 Warminster Community Park/ Philadelphia

Oct 14 Regency Furniture Stadium/ Washington DC

Oct 14 WyoTech/Allegheny Highland Oct 15 Watkins Glen North Paddocl/Glen Oct 15 Bader Field/South Jersey

Oct 15 Pittsburgh Int'l Raceway/Steel Cities

Oct 21 WyoTech/Allegheny-Highland Oct 22 Splish Splash Water Park/New

Nov 12 Bader Field/South Jersey Alllegheny-Highland (724) 622-4250 Central Pennsylvania (814) 386-3097 Finger Lakes (585) 231-1173 Glen brettbourdette@gmail.com New York sgtvinas@gmail.com NEPennsylvania )570) 881-0474 Philadelphia (484) 949-4100 South Jersey sue1arunit@verizon.net

Steel Cities (724) 689-7393

Susquehanna

kristen@krispvisions.com Washington DC (240) 508-5335

SOUTHEAST sedivracing.org

Sep 16-17 Cherry Point MCAS/North Carolina

Sep 17 Music City Raceway/Tennessee Oct 7-8 Cherry Point MCAS/North Carolina

Oct 7-8 Twin Fountain Raceway/Tennessee Nov 4 Cherry Point MCAS/North Carolina Buccaneer

chris@christopherowhite.net North Carolina (910) 622-5513 Red River

flawedchemical@hotmail.com Tennessee trscca.cd@gmail.com

CENTRAL cendiv-scca.org

Sep 30-Oct 1 Pekin Municipal Airport/ Central Illinois

Central Illinois (309) 370-8326

GREAT LAKES greatlakes-scca.org Sep 17 Mid-American Air Center/ Southern Indiana

Sep 17 Owens Community College/ NWOhio.

Sep 24 Jack Barstow Airport/Saginaw Valley

Sep 24 Tire Rack Test Track/South Bend Sep 24 35010 Vine St./NEOhio Oct 1 Toledo Express Airport/NWOhio Oct 8 Mid-American Air Center/Southern

Indiana Oct 15 Owens Community College/ NWOhio

Oct 22 Mid-American Air Center/ Southern Indiana

Oct 22 Tire Rack Test Trac/South Bend

Oct 22 35010 Vine St./NEOhio Fort Wayne

fortwayneautox@gmail.com NEOhio (440) 299-7656 NWOhio (419) 378-0830 Saginaw Valley (517) 719-8158 South Bend (269) 277-1310 Southern Indiana

terry9393@outlook.com

MIDWEST midiv.org Sep 10 Remington Park/Oklahoma Sep 17 Hutchinson Naval Airbase/Wichita Sep 23 Arkansas Aeroplex/Arkansas Sep 24 Family Arena/St. Louis Oct 1 Family Arena/St. Louis Oct 1 Remington Park/Oklahoma Oct 1 Hutchinson Naval Airbase/Wichita Oct 15 Hutchinson Naval Airbase/Wichita Oct 21-22 War Memorial Stadium/

Oct 22 Remington Park/Oklahoma Oct 29 Metropolitan Community College/ Kansas City

Dec 3 War Memorial Stadium/Arkansas Arkansas n-santos@sbcglobal.net Kansas City (913) 608-1648 Oklahoma mcouncil2@gmail.com St. Louis corkyft21@yahoo.com Wichita jacob.77I@gmail.com

SOUTHWEST sowdivscca.org

Sep 2-3 Waldron Field/South Texas Border Sep 17 Texas Motor Speedway Bus Lot/

Oct 8 Texas Motor Speedway Bus Lot/

Oct 14-15 Waldron Field/South Texas Border Nov 4-5 Waldron Field/South Texas Border Nov 12 Texas Motor Speedway Bus Lot/

Dec 2-3 Waldron Field/South Texas Border Red River redsilver 92@hotmail.com South Texas Border (361) 739-6829 Southwest Louisiana (337) 263-5457 Texas jennifer.maxcy@att.net

ROCKY MOUNTAIN coloradoscca.org

Sep 23 Utah Motorsports Campus/Utah Oct 14 Utah Motorsports Campus/Utah Oct 14 Front Range Airport/Colorado Colorado (414) 218-1594 Eastern Idaho (208) 351-8869

Utah carolyn@jolleyandjolley.com

NORTHERN PACIFIC norpacscca.org

Sep 9-10 Expo Idaho/Snake River Sep 16-17 Helena Regional Airport/

Oct 8 Expo Park/Montana Oct 8 Buttonwillow Raceway Park/San Francisco, Fresno

Oct 15 Expo Park/Montana Oct 21-22 Expo Idaho/Snake River Nov 11-12 Fresno Fairgrounds/San Francisco, Fresno

Fresno (559) 905-0061 Montana clintoppelt@gmail.com **San Francsico** (530) 934-4455 San Francisco Sacramento

(916) 416-2972 Snake River jmcvey 123@msn.com

PLAY HARDER. UTQG 200 AA A 9/32 Tread Depth(in.) VICTRA 245/40ZR18 205/50ZR15 205/55ZR16 295/40ZR18\* 265/35ZR18 255/40ZR17 245/40ZR15 \*6/32 Tread Depth(in.) UTQG 140 AA A

# ANNIVERSARIES

# **SCCA MEMBERS CELEBRATING 25-65 YEARS**

65-YEAR MEMBERS Strater Hendricks	9/1/1952	Life Member
	9/1/1932	Life Mellibei
60-YEAR MEMBERS James M. Bauer	9/1/1957	Milwaukee
David H. Poverman	9/1/1957	Northern New Jersey
Rosemarie Poverman	9/1/1957	Northern New Jersey
John D. Shankle	9/1/1957	Cal Club
55-YEAR MEMBERS		
Joseph W. Huffaker	9/1/1962	San Francisco
Wayne J. Zitkus	9/1/1962	Northwestern Ohio
50-YEAR MEMBERS		
Alexander (Sasha) Lanz	9/1/1967	Texas
Peter R. Thom	9/1/1967	San Francisco
David G. Wachtel	9/1/1967	Mohawk Hudson
Richard A. Wood	9/1/1967	Cal Club
45-YEAR MEMBERS		
Jeffrey Becker	9/1/1972	New York
Andrew G. Bellis	9/1/1972	Detroit
Bert R. Biles	9/1/1972	Kansas
Michael W. Green	9/1/1972	Central Carolinas
Guy M. Jennings	9/1/1972	Western New York
John S. Palanchar	9/1/1972	Chicago
Susan Zimmerman	3/1/1972	Life Member
Theodore A. Wittcoff	9/1/1972	Land O'Lakes
40-YEAR MEMBERS		
Audrey Cramer	9/1/1977	Arizona Border
Chuck Hemmingson	9/1/1977	Des Moines Valley
James S. Kirby Grant Kreinberg	9/1/1977 9/1/1977	Cal Club San Francisco
Lizabeth K. Lowy	9/1/1977	Milwaukee
Douglas Walker	9/1/1977	Des Moines Valley
_	-,,,	
35-YEAR MEMBERS David R.Brengle	9/14/1982	San Diego
Ira O. Cooke	9/29/1982	Pan American
Mark A. Defer	9/14/1982	Neohio
Melvin C. Dillon	9/29/1982	Finger Lakes
Jose Franco	9/13/1982	San Francisco
John F. Herscher	9/24/1982	Central Florida
James G. Novotny	9/29/1982	Washington DC
William R. Pintaric Jr	9/13/1982	Mahoning Valley
Barbara Protos	9/29/1982	Washington DC
Matthew James Protos Ji		Washington DC
Mike Rudolph	9/13/1982	Central Florida
Gary L. Wilson	9/13/1982	Atlanta
30-YEAR MEMBERS	0/25/1007	San Francisco Northwestern Ohio  Texas San Francisco Mohawk Hudson Cal Club  New York Detroit Kansas Central Carolinas Western New York Chicago Life Member Land O'Lakes  Arizona Border Des Moines Valley Cal Club San Francisco Milwaukee Des Moines Valley  San Piego Pan American Neohio Finger Lakes San Francisco Central Florida Washington DC Mahoning Valley Washington DC Washington DC Central Florida Atlanta  Washington DC Land O'Lakes Cal Club Northwestern Ohio Northwestern Ohio Northwestern Ohio Northwestern Ohio Western Michigan Western Michigan Western Michigan Mohawk Hudson
Peter J. Corley	9/25/1987	Washington DC
Jon Anderson Donald L. Anderson	9/10/1987 9/8/1987	Land O'Lakes Cal Club
Jason Bach	9/8/1987	Northwestern Ohio
Cindy Bach	9/23/1987	Northwestern Ohio
John Bach	9/23/1987	Northwestern Ohio
Susan Kay Beauvais	9/17/1987	Western Michigan
Bruce W Beauvais	9/17/1987	Western Michigan
James Bucci	9/8/1987	Mohawk Hudson

:	Joyce Bucknam	9/8/1987	Finger Lakes
	Gail W. Chase	9/8/1987	Cal Club
	Michael Cottrell	9/29/1987	Atlanta
	Barbara E. Crisafulli	9/23/1987	New York
	Sandra L. Dever	9/9/1987	Chicago
	John B. Dimmer	9/28/1987	Oregon
	Stephen L. Epperly	9/16/1987	Oregon
	Donna Fahrenbach	9/22/1987	Chicago
	John L. Fuchs	9/15/1987	Central Florida
	Eric F. Harris	9/9/1987	-
	Kas Jaunzemis	9/29/1987	Philadelphia
	Donald A. Kadunc	9/25/1987	Ohio Valley
	Neal Kennedy	9/29/1987	
	Valerie Vinson Lemmond		Central Carolinas
	Peter Linssen	9/23/1987	Oregon
	Jeff Lovell	9/22/1987	Detroit
	Sean Christopher Maisey		
	Keith Maloney	9/23/1987	
	James Quaile	9/10/1987	Mohawk Hudson
	Connie Ritchie	9/17/1987	
	Diane E. Skelton	9/16/1987	Central Florida
	John W. Todd Scott R. Trevey	9/8/1987 9/30/1987	Washington DC Colorado
	Barb Turner	9/16/1987	
	Charles Vaccaro	9/15/1987	New York
	Susan M. Wakeman	9/10/1987	Detroit
	Craig T. Weidner	9/9/1987	Western Michigan
	Roger Duvall Wilson	9/23/1987	Cal Club
	=		
	25-YEAR MEMBERS	0/22/1002	Florido
	Peggie Barten	9/22/1992	Florida
	Col. Roger S. Bass Rupert Berrington	9/10/1992 9/9/1992	Texas Colorado
	Ralph Castriotta	9/30/1992	
	Alan Chin	9/30/1992	
	N.J. Curran	9/23/1992	Central Florida
	Chris Current	9/30/1992	
	Jonathan Dove	9/10/1992	Buccaneer
	Caitlyn M. Entriken	9/6/1992	Salina
	Chris Granche	9/10/1992	Steel Cities
	Caroline Gray	9/23/1992	Houston
	Jeffrey Thomas Grinavic	9/3/1992	New England
	Tammy Harrington	9/30/1992	Neohio
	William J. Haus	9/9/1992	Steel Cities
	Jay Jones	9/17/1992	Cal Club
	Jeffrey K. Kehler	9/9/1992	South Carolina
	Linda Leaman	9/9/1992	Washington DC
	Tim Linerud	9/21/1992	San Francisco
	Marjorie Lundberg	9/9/1992	San Francisco
	Jim Mitchell	9/9/1992	Texas
	Peter H. Outarsingh	9/30/1992	Texas
	Patrick Pardee	9/4/1992	North Carolina
	Michael P. Stutzman	9/16/1992	
	Phillip A. Sullivan	9/10/1992	
	Hannah Underwood	9/9/1992	Houston
	Carl J. Warren	9/16/1992	New England
	Gary Alan Weyhrich	9/15/1992	Oregon

# SOUTHERN PACIFIC scca-sopac.org

Sep 24 Maui Raceway/Hawaii Sep 24 Marana Regional Airport/Arizona Oct 22 Maui Raceway/Hawaii

Oct 28-29 Marana Regional Airport/ Arizona

Nov 19 Marana Regional Airport/Arizona Dec 3 Vidinha Stadium/Hawaii Dec 10 Marana Regional Airport/Arizona Dec 17 Vidinha Stadium/Hawaii

Arizona (520) 425-1948 Arizona Border (520) 559-1344 Hawaii - Aloha (808) 349-8813 Hawaii - Kauai (808) 647-0189 Hawaii - Maui (808) 281-3654 Las Vegas enemyyocd@gmail.com San Diego (619) 922-1472



Stephen Wilson

# ROADRALLY

### NATIONAL

9/3/1992

Sep 15-17 USRRC/Arctic Alaska

Arctic Alaska (907) 243-2122

South Jersey

# **REGIONAL**

# NORTHEAST nediv.org

Sep 9 AAUW GTA/Northern New Jersey Oct 15 Tour of the Highlands Social, GTA/ Northern New Jersey Dec 3 Teddy Bear Charity Social, GTA/ Northern New Jersey

Northern New Jersey njrallye@aol.com

SOUTHWEST sowdivscca.org
Nov 4 Clear Blue Sky GTA/Texas
Texas alan1@juno.com

ROADRALLY
WHAT USRRC
WHEN Sept. 15-17, 2017
WHERE Alaska
The United States RoadRally
Challenge heads north to
Alaska for the 2017 running of
RoadRally's ultimate event.

# RALLYCROSS

### DIRTFISH NATIONAL CHALLENGE 2018 schedule to be announced

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Oct 20-22 Heartland Park Topeka, Topeka, Kan.

# REGIONAL

NORTHEAST nediv.org

Sep 16-17 Catlett, Va./Washington DC Sep 22-23 Watkins Glen International/ Finger Lakes

Oct 13-14 Watkins Glen International/ Finger Lakes

Oct 15 Catlett, Va./Washington DC Nov 12 Catlett, Va./Washington DC Blue Mountain (610) 469-6883 Central New York (315) 575-3623 Finger Lakes (716) 982-2891 New England (603) 254-9371 Susquehanna nkxv1@yahoo.com

Washington DC adamkimmett@gmail.com

# SOUTHEAST sedivracing.org

Sep 10 Union Point, Ga./Atlanta Sep 23 Holleytree, Ala./Tennessee Valley Sep 24 St. Lucie Fairgrounds/Central Florida

Sep 24 Greeleyville, S.C./South Carolina Oct 7 Byron, Ga./Middle Georgia Oct 14 Holleytree, Ala./Tennessee Valley Oct 21 St. Lucie Fairgrounds/Central Florida

Nov 4 Byron, Ga./Middle Georgia Nov 5 Union Point, Ga./Atlanta Nov 12 Greeleyville, S.C./South Carolina Nov 18 Holleytree, Ala./Tennessee Valley Nov 18 St. Lucie Fairgrounds/Central

Florida

Dec 3 Union Point, Ga./Atlanta

Dec 10 Holleytree, Ala./Tennessee Valley
Atlanta quattros@gmail.com

Central Florida (321) 508-4299

Middle Georgia topher 170@yahoo.com South Carolina pevans 93@gmail.com Tennessee Valley leon@dynatorch.com

# MIDWEST midiv.org

Sep 16 Clinton, Ark./Arkansas Nov 18 Clinton, Ark./Arkansas Arkansas zshaddox@gmail.com



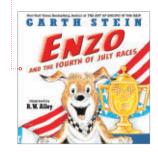
DON'T MISS THE INDUSTRY EVENT OF THE YEAR





# GARTH STEIN'S ENZO AND THE FOURTH OF JULY RACES

Garth Stein, the author of The Art of Racing in the Rain (which many have called one of the best auto racing related novels ever), has released a kid's book about auto and go-kart racing called Enzo and the Fourth of July Races "It's a girl's lib go-kart racing children's picture book complete with a glossary of auto and kart racing terms," Garth says. "Little Zoë is intimidated by a boy who says 'girls aren't fast.' Enzo helps her regain her confidence and she wins the race!" \$17.99 garthstein.com



# TOY BOX

# PAINLESS RACECAR WIRING KIT

The Painless Performance Products 10 circuit, race-only harness features a relay for each fused circuit. The wires are pneumatically terminated and pre-inserted into the fuse block and relay blocks. The fuse block is labeled for the circuits but can be used to power any 12-volt electrical component. Painless also offers two separate switch panels designed for plug-andplay operation with this harness. Each wire is oversized and custom printed with the circuit identification as well as using GM color codes. \$423.99 painlessperformance.com

# RYOBI WIRELESS SPEAKER SET

The Ryobi ONE+ Hybrid Score Wireless Speaker Set contains one P760 Primary Wireless Speaker and one P761 Secondary Wireless Speaker and is perfect for use in the garage or at the track. By connecting your Bluetooth device, you have the ability to connect up to four additional primary or secondary speakers instantly using SKAA technology. The P760 features an FM tuner and auxiliary port, and each speaker can be powered by any ONE+ 18-volt battery or with the included AC power adaptor. \$199 ryobitools.com



# JDM SERIES GAUGES

Utilizing a Japanese Stepper Motor Movement and a digital display, the Prosport JDM Series gauge gives you both analog and digital viewing in one unit. Whisper quiet and lightning speed makes this series ideal if you are looking for the ultimate in performance, speed, and accuracy. Each gauge has a fully programmable warning feature built right into the gauge.

# **AEM GPS MODULE**

The AEM CAN-based GPS Module allows CD-7 Digital Dash users to quickly add track mapping for viewing lap times, vehicle speed, and an odometer function. GPS data is transmitted via AEMnet CAN bus through a single connection for fast installation. This unit is perfect for users who want to display vehicle speed and view lap times but are not logging their data channels. aemelectronics.com



SportsCar welcomes submissions of relevant motorsports products. Please send a description of the product, including price, and a color image to SportsCar Toy Box, 17030 Red Hill Avenue, Irvine, CA 92614, or e-mail sportsCar@racer.com. Products appearing in SportsCar are not necessarily endorsed by SportsCar or the SCCA.



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PHILIP ROYLE
EDITOR, SPORTSCAR MAGAZINE

ALMOST TOO MANY

In preparation for this year's National Championship Runoffs, I received a call from Mark Weber. Mark is probably *SportsCar*'s longest contributing photographer, and he's the only motorsports photographer I know of who manages to race *and* take photos of his own race group. But that's not why he called. Rather, one of the topics was about a Spec Miata competitor who will be paddocked alongside Mark at this year's Runoffs - this competitor will be making his Runoffs rookie debut. On the flip side of that coin is Mark, who has taken the green flag in more than 50 Runoffs races. Mark also mentioned his ongoing competition of Runoffs stamina with Prototype driver Richard Colburn, both having competed in 30-plus years straight of the Runoffs - I believe Mark is down by just one year. These are two great stories from one conversation - there are more out there to be found.

Back to work, I continued editing this month's features about Paul Schneider's Formula Enterprises attempt at the Runoffs, and the effort the Motorsports

Engineering team from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis has put in to run at the pointy end of the F Production field come Indy. Outside of that, I've been chatting with the previous editor of *SportsCar*, Richard James. Richard is nearing his 30th year of SCCA membership and has done just about everything the Club has to offer, from Flagging and Communications to autocross, but he's never competed at the Runoffs. This year, that will change, and he's spent the last year and a half preparing for this moment.

Then there's multi-time Runoffs champ Jesse Prather, who spent the last year building an E Production racecar as a

tribute to his late friend and fellow racer Tom Thrash. Jesse put his all into this first-gen RX-7 build only to have the car sidelined during its first outing. Jesse spent the season borrowing racecars to qualify for the Runoffs while slowly rebuilding the car – a process that was completed barely a month and a half before the Runoffs. The second outing went better, but he's still facing an uphill battle to have the car dialed in with such minimal time on the clock. I also recently heard rumor of a National Champion from the Road Atlanta days set to enter the Runoffs again for the first time in decades – what great stories!

It's as if every time I turn around there's another inspiring tale of determination surrounding this year's Runoffs - and there are a *lot* of people going to the 2017 Runoffs. The problem is that with more than 1,000 drivers entered, there are almost too many stories - although, as a storyteller, this is a fantastic problem to have.

So my goal at this year's Runoffs is to listen to these stories, and perhaps select a few to grace the pages of *SportsCar* in the coming year. How will I find these stories? I'm going to walk the paddock and strike up conversations over beers, burgers, and campfires. And you know what, I bet this is going to be one of my favorite Runoffs ever. •

**y** t

twitter.com/sportscarmag



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

# 10 YEARS AGO... OCTOBER 2007



- As is tradition, we took a shot at predicting the winners of the Runoffs. Some proved true others, not so much.
- The Honda S2000 Club Racer hit the market and we took the opportunity to take a test drive at the famed Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

# 25 YEARS AGO... **OCTOBER 1992**



- Road Atlanta was set to host the Runoffs once more, so we tried to predict the likely winners.
- The third annual IT Festival/ Pro-Vee Showdown, dubbed the Runoffs for Regional-only classes, took place at Heartland Park Topeka.

# 50 YEARS AGO... OCTOBER 1967



- The 1967 USRRC was a wrap, and Mark Donohue claimed the title, along with more than his fair share of the \$109,750 in prize money.
- Can-Am at Road America saw Denny Hulme victorious in the new McLaren Mk 6A.

A KEY INGREDIENT

Believe it or

not, burgers

are part of my

Runoffs strategy.



# VBOX VIDEO



**CIRCUIT TOOLS** driver training software

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- Dual camera 1080p
- Class leading driver training software (Windows, macOS & iOS versions)
- 10Hz GPS data logging
- Video record pre-buffer
- Camera preview over WiFi
- CAN interface

# VBOX VIDEO captures stunning video in full 1080p HD with real-time graphical overlay.

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**VBOX VIDEO** when used with **CIRCUIT TOOLS** - intuitive, simple to use data analysis software developed by racing drivers for racing drivers - can quickly help any level of driver go faster.



Professional racing drivers share their experience on advanced circuit driving techniques in our FREE eBook: www.vboxmotorsport.com/ebook LEGENDS START SMALL.



It all starts with a spark. When your curiosity leads you to a hobby that quickly turns into a lifelong passion. Soon enough, racing becomes as natural as walking, and your lap times exceed even your own expectations. This is how lovers of racing turn into legends behind the wheel. And it's exactly why Mazda's grassroots racing family is there: to support anyone who's ever felt that spark.

