

A pre-turkey edition of SparkPlug to welcome in the holiday season!
Make sure to mark your calendars for the Awards Banquet on 1/10.

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In the Spirit of the Sport

the glen  region

SPARK PLUG

November 2014

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2015 Board of Directors Official

Thank you to all of you that returned your ballots and cast votes for our 2015 Board of Directors! We had roughly 100 ballots returned this year (a little over 30% of eligible voters). And just this past Saturday, the ballots were opened and counted at our Annual Membership Meeting. Our 2015 Board of Directors is as follows:

- **Regional Executive:** Ed Zebrowski
- **Assistant RE:** Kyle Colbey
- **Secretary:** Allan Kintz
- **Treasurer:** Sandy Sanders
- **Activities Dir:** Tim Meddaugh
- **Director:** Chuck Dobbs
- **Director:** Tom Weaver
- **Director:** Pat Scopelliti (returning)
- **Director:** Phil Kelley (returning)

And yes, if you have been paying attention, our 2015 BoD will be the same as our 2014 BoD. Sometimes, that's just how it goes. For the record, there were a couple write-in candidates on the ballots for various positions. Those votes do count, of

course, but there just weren't enough of them. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Educational Grant Awarded

The Glen Region again awarded one higher education grant for this year in the amount of \$500. The recipient was chosen at random from the collection of submissions at this year's Annual Membership Meeting. This year that grant is awarded to **Dallas Zebrowski** - who is attending Finger Lakes Community College.

(I assure you there were no shenanigans in this selection, despite the relation!)

Last Chance Wrap Up

If you missed it, our final event of 2014 was back in October. We held our typical Last Chance weekend with a full slate of sanctions and something to suit just about any driver. Just as we did last year, we held a Driver School, Test Day, and Club Race Experience on Friday. This was followed by Regional races on Saturday. Sunday included ProIT and Formula Vee races, as well as our standard 4 hour Enduro. Also mixed in on Friday and Saturday, we had a couple open wheel students enrolled in an Alternative Driver School. Like I said, something for everyone.

Unfortunately it was not a well-attended event and at this point I'm sure the region lost money. It was definitely not from lack of effort though. Many people put in a lot of hours and put up with a lot of headaches to make it happen. Sometimes it just doesn't work out.

On the flip side, we did have quite a few Glen Region members involved in many of the activities throughout the weekend.

A total of FIVE Glen Region members attended the Driver School out of 11 students in the class (and I think most of them were signed off to race). There were 7 cars participating in the Club Race Experience (with a few regular drivers on track with them to add some excitement).

Saturday's Regional races included many Glen Region members (drivers in **red** also completed Friday's Driver School):

- **Mark Anthony**: 19th, SM
- Jack Dinehart: 1st, CFC
- Gene Litz: 1st, EP
- Matt Pullano: 1st, SSM
- Steve Spano: 1st, SRF
- Ed Zebrowski: 1st, HP
- Anita Aluisio: 4th, HP
- John Hellmers: 2nd, SPO
- Vic Franzese: 1st, ITE
- **Nick Domster**: 2nd, STU
- **Mark Anthony**: 8th, STL
- Steve Steinbacher: 3rd, ITB
- **David Colbey**: 8th, ITA
- Richard Madia: 10th, STL
- Arnold Carbaugh Jr: 2nd, FV
- Matt Clark: 3rd, FV
- Trevor Miller: 4th, FV
- **Trevor Carmody**: 6th, FV

- Berne Naegele: 2nd, STL
- Kyle Colbey: 5th, ITA
- Dan DeBell: 2nd, ITB
- Greg Rice: 7th, FV
- Matt Garwood: 8th, FV
- Ed Sanders: 11th, FV

The Formula Vee race on Sunday was all but dominated by Glen Region members - with the top 4 spots all being Glen (and literally half of the 14 car field in total)!

In our final event of the weekend, we only had a few Glen members registered in the Enduro. The highest finisher was Matt Pullano (with Jeffrey Rotella) who finished 2nd in SSM and 12th overall. Richard Madia and Bernie Naegele teamed up with James Fitzgerald and finished 2nd in ITS. Brian Fitzgerald drove with Adam Figarski and Robert Beede to finish 3rd in ITS.

As you can tell, we had a LOT of Glen Region competitors on track. Also great to see so many Driver School entrants make their way into the races on Saturday and Sunday. There will be no Last Chance event in 2015 due to WGI paving... so the real "Last Chance" of 2015 will basically be in July at the Sprints!

Northeast Division Championship Series

This was the first year of the NEDCS. This new series gave drivers in the Northeast Division two things. First, it gave local drivers a serious Championship between regions to unite the Division. It also gave interested drivers a potential path to the Runoffs. Unfortunately I don't think any of our NEDiv drivers took advantage of that path this year (though with the Runoffs at Laguna Seca, who could blame them?).

The Northeast Division crowned 8 class champions in the series this year, all awarded at the recent NEDiv MiniCon in MA.

- **AS:** Mark Wheaton (NER)
- **FV:** Guy Bellingham (WNY)
- **HP:** Robert Zatz (NER)
- **ITE:** Greg Goss (MH)
- **ITR:** Ben Phillips (NNJ)
- **ITS:** Ray Peterson (STC)
- **P1:** Paul Drula (WDC)

2015 NEDCS Schedule

At the recent MiniCon, the Divisional Racing Committee set the Northeast Division Championship Series schedule for 2015. And it looks like this:

- 4/11-12: WDC Region @ Summit Point
- 5/23-24: NE Region @ New Hampshire
- 6/6-7: JRB @ NJ Motorsports Park
- 6/20-21: MVR/FLR @ Nelson Ledges
- 7/18-19: Glen Region @ WGI
- 8/8-9: Tri Regions @ Pocono
- ----- Runoffs Cutoff Date -----
- 9/19-20: STC Region @ Pitt Race
- 10/9-10: NE Region @ Thompson

There are also a couple new tracks coming online soon that will eventually be integrated into the schedule (Palmer Motorsports Park, for one). For now, the official NEDCS schedule will be limited to 8 weekends and those new tracks will eventually be worked into the rotation.

As you can see by the highlight, our July Sprints weekend will be a Divisional Series race. The other

- **SRF:** Neil Killey (STC)

Notable (top 10 in class points) Glen Region finishers include:

- **HP:** Ed Zebrowski, 4th place
- **ITA:** Kyle Colbey, 6th place
- **ITB:** Dan DeBell, 5th place
- **ITE:** Brian Cooper, 9th place

Congratulations everyone! And don't forget that in 2015, the July Sprints will be the Divisional Championship race at Watkins Glen. And maybe in 2015 we can get a couple Glen Region drivers on that winners list!

Solo Rule Changes 2015

If you recall, 2014 saw some pretty significant rule changes in Solo. Specifically with the Stock or Street classes. On track for 2015, some more of those changes take effect.

Last year's biggest change was the exclusion of slicks or R compounds in the Stock classes (now Street classes). But in order to give those drivers a chance to use up the expensive race tires, there were -R classes for all of the Street classes available (a couple of our own competitors used these classes this year). For 2015, those -R classes go away - with the exception of Super Street R (SSR).

The other notable change is an increase in the minimum treadwear allowance for Street classes - now set at 200 (up from 140 last year).

You can find a little more detail in this [SCCA press release](#) and the [October 2013 FastTrack](#). As the season approaches, we'll know more about any potential class changes for next year.

2015 Awards Banquet

highlight is the Runoffs cutoff date.

As some of you might know, it is possible to use the Divisional Championship Series as a path to the Runoffs. The catch is that the cutoff date for eligible points in the series to receive an invitation to the Runoffs is three weeks prior. With the Runoffs scheduled for 9/21-27 of 2015, that makes the cutoff around 9/1. So the 8/8-9 weekend at Pocono is the last chance for 2015 to get yourself into the top 3 of your class in the Divisional Series points to receive an invitation.

OK, does anyone have any questions on all of those words? I hope not, that's hard to explain. The Cliff Notes version is this: we're hosting race #5 of the 2015 series. If you want to go to the Runoffs, be in the top 3 in your eligible class after the Pocono event!

NEDiv MiniCon

At least 11 Glen Region members made the trip to Marlborough MA on the 14-16th of November for the MiniCon. As seems typical, we had the largest regional attendance (including a large majority of our BoD).

This year there were the usual scheduling and Divisional racing meetings on Friday. It appeared as those most racing dates were already finalized and the only thing remaining was to confirm the specific NEDiv Championship Series races (which you should have already seen above!).

Along with the usual Divisional meeting and a couple specialty sessions, we were also treated to a visit from a couple National reps. Heyward Wagner and Deanna Flanagan each had parts in a couple sessions regarding regional leadership and getting people involved

Our Awards Banquet for the 2014 season (but held in 2015!) is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 10th at 1 p.m. at Lib's Supper Club. As usual, we will be giving awards for Club Racing, Solo, and other worker awards - and it is likely there will also be a 50/50 raffle to go along with the fun.

This is very similar to our plan for last year. And similar to last year, the cost will be \$27. RSVP instructions and any other information will be shared as soon as it is available.

SCCA National Convention

Next year's National Convention really isn't too far away. It is a couple weeks earlier this year, actually - currently scheduled for February 20-21. It will again coincide with the MSX Expo and again be located in Charlotte, NC.

You can see ticket prices and details - as well as register - at the [MSX Expo website](#). Thankfully, National Convention tickets are cheaper this year, coming in at \$175 for the convention and Expo (compared to \$295 last year!).

In the spirit of the sport...

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and also some survey results leading to discussion on giving drivers and participants what they want in a weekend. Turns out a LOT of people surveyed apparently want PDXs and track days.

There was a lot of discussion and many ideas throughout the weekend - in both of these bigger sessions and the smaller ones. I'm sure that all of the Glen Region attendees have something to bring back that will help further our own region and help us grow and improve.

If you like planning ahead, the 2015 MiniCon (next fall) is scheduled to be hosted by Western NY Region in Saratoga NY. We'll, of course, make more information available as we see it.

November Birthdays!

If you see these Glen Region members, wish them a Happy Birthday.

Dave Cole	Rober Murray
James DePaul	Walter Petroff
Larry Emery	Ken Pierce
Terrence Goodwin	Nicholas Sandore
Eva Grandusky	Robert Smalley
Nickolas Hellmers	Robert Stevenson
Brian Metcalf	Michael Taves