

It's the oh-please-let-spring-finally-be-here issue of SparkPlug!

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In the Spirit of the Sport

the glen  region

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Spring 2015

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REport

Glen Region Members,

The SCCA National Convention and Northeast Division Round Table have taken place, and I would like to give you an update on both.

The National Convention was held in Charlotte, NC again this year. In conjunction with the MSX Expo, the National Convention is continuing to evolve. The convention theme was '2020', as in where will our club be in 2020 and how do we plan for the future. As your RE I had breakfast and lunch meetings with the Board of Directors (our National BoD). Even the national BoD is looking at how they operate and what changes are in need for our organization. 'Are we a business that is a club, or a club that is a business, or both, or neither?' were topics discussed. SCCA is very strong in our activities that we do. Club Race, Solo, Rally, Rallycross, etc, are areas that our club does better than any other club. But with slow declines in some our activities, changes in the auto industry, and the evolution in culture, the club is looking at what we should be starting now to be ready in 2020. Track Night in America and Starting Line are two examples of programs that are aimed at that 2020 vision.

The NeDiv Round Table was held at the Pocono Manor Inn once again. The Glen Region had a strong contingent with 12 members in attendance. As your RE I represent the Glen Region on the Divisional Racing Committee (DRC). The NeDiv

Divisional Racing Series is looking strong for the 2015 racing season. Some adjustments to the schedule were made, as the status of the Nelson Ledges track is not clear, and all SCCA regions that hold events there have cancelled their events. The Glen Region will host the 2015 Divisional Race event at WGI during our July Sprints event weekend. That race weekend will also host the NYSRRC, NARRC and ProIT series.

Also at the Round Table, Jennifer Kintz and Cheryl Zebrowski hosted a lively session on what activities regions can host during an event that are 'off-track'. As you might recall, we have hosted get togethers on Capt Bill's boat during Club Race weekends, as well as Wine and Cheese tours. Other regions discussed how they host other activities during their Solo events, Club Race events, etc.

All in all, between the National Convention, the NeDiv Round Table, and our Glen Region planned events, 2015 is looking like a good year! Please support the BoD and your region. Attend the meetings, events, and activities. Volunteer to help. Be part of the greatest region in the Sports Car Club of America.

In The Spirit Of The Sport,
--Ed...

SCCA National Convention

As was mentioned in our REport above, the 2015 National Convention has come and gone already this year. And while we all hoped for nicer weather in Charlotte that home... we were greeted by cold and in some places, more snow and ice (we're still waiting on that nicer weather, by the way).

Like Ed explained, the Convention had a theme of 2020... being the future of the club. This theme is something I've been observing in my 8 years as a member. How does the SCCA reach younger generations to maintain or expand their membership and participation? I don't think anyone has a single answer yet. The SCCA certainly is throwing a few ideas out there. The aforementioned Track Night in America and the various Starting Line programs are perfect examples.

The Track Night program is specifically set up to make it easy to get people on track. These events will be run weekday evenings at various tracks around the country. There will be three levels of participation beginning with a Novice Experience that will walk beginners through the evening with car prep, driver's meetings, etc. Intermediate and Advanced programs will also be available and will include online versions of some of the logistics (tech sheet, drivers meeting, etc) - speeding their path to on track activities.

With all of that said, what does it come down to? Getting people on track. For \$150, participants will get three 20 minute sessions on track. There will also be free paced laps for anyone 18 and over with a valid drivers license. You can read more about the program [at the SCCA's website](#) and [the Track Night website](#). The nearest Track Night to the Glen Region? Events will be held at both Pitt Race and NJMP starting in mid April and running each month through the summer.

There was also some talk about the future of Solo. Though sadly, not as much as there probably was for Club Racing. The Starting Line program has already been launched and is meant to be a one-stop introduction to Solo. You can expect to see one of these events run in conjunction with the Majors weekend at WGI this year.

Also coming up from the National office is a new budget endurance program (yet to be named). This program will give endurance racers a few different options in running their race. Want to run flat out and see who runs the most laps in a set amount of time like a traditional endurance race? Do it. Want a little more challenge? Set yourself a target lap time and run to that time for the event. Bank extra time for your pit stops with faster drivers or save that time for your slower drivers. Penalties apply for going too fast or too slow compared to your target bracket time. Maybe the best part... as long as the car will pass GCR safety requirements, it's basically in. There will be some class limits - similar to Club Race Experience events - but beyond that, almost anything goes.

If that all sounds like a lot... that's because it is. It should be a big year for the SCCA as a whole. A lot of new things happening and some of them we may be a part of, some of them maybe not. We'll just have to see how they all play out.

Oh - one other really interesting thing to come out of the National Convention is a [mobile website for Weekend Membership signups](#). No more filling out a paper form at an event. Complete form on the web, pay with your credit card, and show the confirmation message to the registrar!

Well, that's the gist of it anyway - there are few more details we're waiting to be filled in, but the site is live and functional. Eventually we'll have region access to it to verify signups and change some settings/pricing. Definitely a plus for simplicity - especially in long morning lines at Solo events!

2015 Racing Season Schedule

Our 2015 schedule is finally set! That even includes all of our Solo events. The full season looks like this (registration links where available):

- [5/2 - Solo Test & Tune @ WGI Media Lot](#)
- [5/3 - Solo Event #1 @ WGI Media Lot](#)
- [5/17 - Solo Event #2 @ Shops at Ithaca Mall](#)
- [6/13 - Solo School @ Elmira College Domes](#)
- [6/14 - Solo Event #3 @ Elmira College Domes](#)
- [7/11 - Solo Event #4 @ Elmira College Domes](#)
- [7/17-18 - July Sprints Club Race @ WGI](#)
- [8/2 - Solo Event #5 @ Corning Community College](#)
- [8/15 - Solo Test & Tune @ WGI Media Lot](#)
- [8/16 - Solo Event #6 @ WGI Media Lot](#)
- [9/12 - Solo Event #7 @ WGI Paddock w/ GP Festival!](#)
- [10/4 - Solo Event #8 @ WGI Paddock](#)

A few interesting notes about this season... First, only one Club Race this year.

Everyone should probably already know this - but FLR has the Majors and paving starts in August. So no Majors or Last Chance for us.

Also we are trying some new things with the Solo program. The first being a couple of Test & Tune events. The premise being getting people some valuable seat time in a controlled environment with limited entries and limited timing and scoring. Test & Tunes will require online registration due to the limited seats.

In addition to the T&T we are also holding our first "night" event or "day into night" event. The EC Domes are well-lit every night and we'd like to take advantage of that. Expect the schedule to go well into the evening!

Should be a very interesting season!

Green Grand Prix

This year's GGP is only a week away! Bob has been hard at work in planning and getting everything ready. Here are some notes on the upcoming event from the last Board meeting:

As of March there were over 150 tech school students planning to attend. A few different Pennsylvania College of Technology students are bringing different vehicles - including a Tesla Model S. And a high school in Philadelphia is bringing a Factory Five 818 bio diesel kit car.

In addition to being the title sponsor to the event, Toyota will also be sponsoring a separate rally (run during the main rally on track) just for their Prius vehicles including some prize money for winners in each generation of vehicle.

The event is just around the corner - but I'm sure Bob could still use a few hands if you're available on Friday. [Reach out to him](#) if want to help!

Solo Resources

The national office has finally started

HELP WANTED!

It's time to clean out our storage unit!

Every year, our Solo group does a cleanout of the Solo trailer and the region van. I think it's time this cleanout extends to the rest of our storage unit. It would be great to have a handful of volunteers to help get this space in order.

I'd propose Saturday, April 25th for the big day - maybe a rain date a couple weeks later if necessary. If anyone interested in helping could reach out, we'll get this rolling. It would be most beneficial to be sure to have a couple long-term members available that might be able to help identify the origin of some of the things in the storage unit. And also determine what may or may not need to be saved.

So who's in? Saturday, 4/25, 10 am?

Reach out to [Allan Kintz](#) if you're able to help!

dishing out a few new resources for Solo programs out there. Recently they have released a simple guides and printable one-pagers for various things, including:

- [Solo FAQ](#)
- [Helmet Certification List](#)
- [Class Category Allowances](#)
- [CAM Class Handout](#)

These and other resources are also posted on the Solo [Cars & Rules](#) page on SCCA.com.

In the spirit of the sport...

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