

It's the oh-hey-elections-are-here-already issue of SparkPlug!

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In the Spirit of the Sport

the glen region

SPARK PLUG

A graphic of a spark plug with a starburst effect at the bottom, positioned over the 'P' and 'L' of the word 'PLUG' in the main title.

Summer 2015

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In this issue:

- REport
- Elections Season
- July Sprints Recap
- Solo Season Updates
- MAJORS Event Thanks
- Storage Cleanout
- Upcoming Events

REport

The season is over already? Well it is for our Club Racing side of things. The Fingerlakes Region SCCA MAJORS and Glen Region July Sprints are over and were a great success. Solo events are continuing to roll along. With our shorten Club Race season, let's all head out to our Solo Events!

August is Nominating Committee time. It has been said many times, but the region really does need YOU! Please step up to the plate and consider being on the Nominating Committee, and running for an office. A little extra time from each of us makes the region as whole run smoothly. There will be Board of Director positions that will be open and needed to be filled (the Board has four Director positions). Also, I invite any member to consider running for any of the officer positions (RE, Asst RE, Treasurer, Secretary, and Activities Director).

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



Our Solo Chair, Brett Bourdette, making one of his runs at our CCC Solo event!

Elections Season

I'm going to repeat a bit of what Ed said above... but yes, it is that time of year again. Already. Really...

Usually at this point we're explaining how we need a couple people to fill open Director positions - actually I think Ed covered that above. I'll go a step further and say that EVERY position needs a candidate and needs to be filled. That means everything from the RE down to the Activities Director and the regular Director positions need to be filled.

Can you do math? Write checks? Go to the bank? Awesome! You would make a great Treasurer! How about taking notes? Would you mind stuffing some envelopes once a year? Sounds like a great Secretary to me! Do you want to have some say in how the region operates and the direction we're headed? Literally any of the positions would be for you.

This isn't a huge time commitment we're talking about either. There is one meeting per month (sometimes less than that!) for an hour or two. Outside of that you might have to give up an hour or two extra each month - depending on your position - and likely even less than that. OK, if you live in Canada or Texas or Kentucky you probably wouldn't be able to make the board meetings in Watkins Glen. That's OK. We know you still care even if you can't run for a position.

Point is, we need your help. We need to form a Nominating Committee ASAP and that committee needs to find people willing to run for office. And I hope that some of you will be those people.

If you'd like to help out by being a part of the Nominating Committee or by running for

one of the positions, please reply to this message and I will be in contact with you!



Pat Scopelliti runs his kart through the finish at our first Solo event.

Club Racing Wrap Up

Our one club race this season has come and gone already (almost a month ago now actually, wow). The July Sprints being the only event meant it was kind of a big deal. The weekend was part of the NEDiv Championship Series, we hosted ProIT and HRG, and it was also a points race for both NYSRRC and NARRC!

All of that fit into 2 days.

Truth be told, the format was pretty close to past Sprints events. We considered a variety of different types of events for the weekend but everything came down to time. And time on track is money. So the weekend ran with a short practice/qualifying session and a qualifying race on Saturday with the main feature races on Sunday. Along with those sessions, we split ProIT qualifying between both days and ran their race after lunch on Sunday.

I'll be honest here, the attendance was really not what we were hoping for - we figured being the only regional at WGI, no Fun One, no Last Chance, part of the Divisional Series, ProIT, etc... It should have added up to a great turnout. Instead we had around 160 regional entries and another 24 for ProIT. There were only a couple classes that felt noticeably smaller than normal though - so we don't know for sure where everyone was (except some FVs were in Canada I think). But we were happy to see all of those that did come out. We think they had a great time and appreciate them spending their weekend with us.

Despite the lower than expected turnout, we may still have turned a small profit or at least broke even. And with only one race this year, that's not awful. And we wouldn't

have been able to do it without the help of all of our workers and volunteers - so thank you!

Next year will be almost a complete 180 though - we'll have the MAJORS, Sprints, and the Last Chance and could end up moving some dates around. Coming off a one race season, we're going to have to ramp up big. We will definitely be looking for people to step up and help throughout the year.



Mark Sherwood in his FA car at this year's MAJORS event.

Solo Season Updates

We may have only had one club racing event but this is probably one of the busiest Solo seasons that I can remember in the nearly 10 years I've been racing. And we are already more than halfway through this jam packed season!

In addition to our standard eight event regular season, we also hosted a Solo School back in June and have also added a couple Test & Tune events to our schedule - the second of which was held just this past weekend. Both of the Test & Tune events were on Saturdays scheduled back to back with Sunday Solo events.

Our first Test & Tune was a great success. We attracted a variety of drivers from our region and our neighbors and there was no shortage of seat time available (maybe even too much, actually, as some drivers cut their run time short for various reasons). The first Test & Tune also helped us to pay the site fees for both days, which earned us a pretty nice profit for the two day weekend. The second one was not as well attended but we had a fun course and a ton of seat time - everyone that was there wondered why more people wouldn't want that kind of bargain... so did I.

Event attendance has also been great so far this year and pretty consistent. We have been between 39 and 47 drivers for each of our 6 events so far this year.

We still have two more events scheduled this season, including a big Saturday event in September partnering with the Grand Prix Festival. We expect that to be a pretty big deal.

The rest of our schedule looks like this: Saturday, 9/12 at Watkins Glen International (North Paddock) and then Sunday, 10/4 also at the WGI paddock. We'll also have an out of region points event (hosted by Southern NY region) on Sunday, 9/27 at the Ithaca Mall. Be sure to check the website for the latest details and registration information!



Even with the Mini, Colin Raymond couldn't help but slaughter innocent cones.



Kyle Colbey's lucky to have a great family to prep his car during his T&S duties.



Staples of ITE, Matt Bernard's & Vic Franzese's Firebirds waiting at the Sprints.

MAJORS Event Thanks

The Series Chief Steward, Earl Hurlbut, shares these words from the Finger Lakes MAJORS event in July...

Thank you for a very successful Majors event over the July fourth weekend. A big success by any standard one can use. An outstanding performance by all who were involved. All the specialties and chiefs, the Race Chairs, the Stewards, the Pace/Safety Car drivers and the WGI workers as well as a special recognition for Chris Di Minco and the Thiels for their super-human efforts to provide everything needed to support the event. As the Series Chief Steward, I have a lot of contact with the competitors and the positive response to the event was overwhelming. Far more than the previous five events this year. I was impressed by all the competitor's remarks complimenting the region on the professionalism exhibited and the responses to their needs.

HELP NEEDED!

It's (still) time to clean out our storage unit!

We didn't get any bites on this in the spring - so how about the fall? Our storage unit could really use some help. I'm sure a lot of it really just needs to be thrown away - but we'll need some help making that happen.

It would be great to pull everything out of there and sort it. Throw out what needs to go. Organize what we need to keep. And decide what to do with the rest.

I'll suggest September 13? No holiday, no F1 race, day after a Solo event... that should free up a few people, right? We'll take any help we can get.

Reach out to [Allan Kintz](#) if you're able to help! If you want to help but that day is bad, let us know what works for you!

Upcoming Events

There's not a whole lot left for this

I am very pleased by the overall outcome of the 2015 FLR Majors and proud to be a part of the regions who performed so well. I think that we showed the rest of the Majors Tour how it should be done.

Thank you,
Earl

In the spirit of the sport...

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season but here's what I can find coming up...

9/12 - Solo @ WGI
9/13 - Cleanout @ Storage
10/3 - Solo @ WGI
11/13-15 - NEDiv MiniCon
11/21 Annual Meeting @ IMRRC