



CHECKPOINT

Kansas City Region SCCA

June Newsletter

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at Heartland Motorsports Park

Heartland Summer Majors & MiDiv Time Trial Series—July 17-19

Track Night in America—July 17 & August 12

Contact Chris Kern if you are available.

RE Comments



After a long wait, racing has begun again, sort of. Our Solo Advisory Committee is struggling to get firm dates for our events at Metropolitan Community College, in the meanwhile that have scheduled a Solo date with the Kansas Region at Heartland Motorsports Park on July 11-12. Registration is open on MSR. We are optimistic our Solo Event #7 (I know, it's really event number one) will run as planned on July 26th at MCC.

On the Road Racing side of things the season got off to a great start May 29-30 at the Gateway Sprints Hoosier Super Tour. Over 120 drivers participated in 2 days of great racing. Check out two of our KC Member's interviews on our website homepage after winning their races. This weekend, June 27-28, there are 138 drivers entered at the Hallett Summertime Majors and 19 drivers for the MiDiv Time Trials Series at Hallett. In just 2 weeks on July 17-19, the KVRG is hosting our Summertime Majors and MiDiv Time Trials Series

at Heartland Motorsports Park in Topeka. In addition to a test day Friday there will also be a Track Night in America in the afternoon. We have added a 75 minute endurance race this year on both Saturday and Sunday, so if you're interested sign up on MSR.

The RallyCross crowd has enjoyed 3 events so far this year and participation is strong. As the world is slowly opening back up from the pandemic shutdown and the economy is revving up again please remember to stay safe and have fun. For the most recent schedule changes check out the KC Region website and Facebook pages. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

Mike McGinley, RE

CANCELLED:
JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We will not be having a July General Membership Meeting due to the increased safety concerns surrounding Covid cases.

Please check out our Meeting Minutes from the Board Meeting on June 30, 2020 to stay up-to-date. Our secretary is working hard to get these minutes finalized and posted [online](#). If they are not on the website, please check back.

THANK YOU & STAY SAFE!

Racing in a Covid World

by Ed Nicholson

As racers, we want to get out and drive our cars. This year has been quite a challenge for getting our cars on track. Like many of you, I was ready to get the season started by going to the Hallett for the Super Tour event the beginning of April, and then we had the stay at home orders come into effect because of the novel coronavirus. Real racing went on hold, and we had to resort to either just set and wait or take up iRacing and wait for relief.

After about two months in the middle to late May, orders for lifting stay at home began to occur. This meant checking to see what venues might open, when and considering if the comfort level was such that attending an event was worth the risk. Even before the outbreak and lock down, I had determined that this year I was going to support our region first in my choice of events to consider.



Ed Nicholson driving his race car after racing had opened back up!

This led me to register for my first outing at the Super Tour event in St Louis at the World Wide Technology Raceway, formerly Gateway Motorsports Park. It was great getting on the road and traveling to the racetrack. I saw many of the people I have come to know over the years and of course there was RACING! The experience for me—and I feel most of us—was relief in getting out, but in a much different Covid world.

Most participants were very good at following the SCCA and CDC guidelines wearing PPE and practicing social distance. However, as with any large group there were some who for their own reasons did not wear masks. We all lapse from time to time with newness of things and being just elated to be free of our recent confinements. I feel that as we move forward and settle into this new era we will become more diligent on how we handle the new reality.



Bill Johnson working on his car in the garage at St Louis.

St Louis Region did an excellent job of pulling the event together and making it as normal as possible. While we were responsible for PPE, there was plenty of hand sanitizer around. Yes, we followed the SCCA guidelines and there were no large group gatherings such as we are accustomed. There were misses but with a large group there will be lapses. However, we were outside and could walk around and talk to our fellow competitors and friends. No Friday night welcome gathering or Saturday evening party but the food truck and organized queue Saturday evening still managed to bring us together as the racing family we all love, in smaller numbers. Following the SCCA guidelines and accommodating our diverse venues we will be able to adjust racing to fit into a Covid world.

If you are considering going to an event soon, I admit that it is a long hard think to determine if one should venture out and it is personal. All of you are going through the same examination to see if this is the right time to venture back to the track. The main points are to come prepared to follow the guidelines set out be the SCCA and the CDC. We need to be diligent, not only for ourselves but for our fellow SCCA community. This will help keep us all safe and healthy so we may continue to enjoy the sport we all love. Good racing everyone.



Corner Crew practicing social distancing and wearing masks at St Louis.

RallyCross: *What's in a Name?*

by Greg Cheney

SCCA RallyCross is one of the fastest growing groups of competition in the Midwest. Along with fun-times-had-by-all in the dirt, some incredibly creative team names have sprung up across the area along with a significant social media presence. Names like Bluegill-Dingus Racing, Misfit Racing Team, Boost Brother's Garage, consist of our local competitors loving and slinging dirt! Below we identify some of the teams and competitors involved for your reference.

Grunch Bunch Racing consists of Reuben Samuels, in his Genesis braap-braap machine along with Collins Reynolds and Stephen Cook, as well as Andy Sheehan in his 10,000 RPM Honda.

RTR Racing began with Ryan, Toby and Richard, but last we heard it consists of Ryan Redenbaugh, Ian Jennings, Richard Thompson and Keegan Wilhelm, and we are sure some other Toyota fan boys. They race different vintage models, but have a collection of similar (old) Toyota engines they can cross pollinate. Of course Keegan is not always in a Toyota; he sometimes brings out the boat, aka 1979 Lincoln Continental. These guys are usually found in a garage somewhere fixing and/or replacing parts and pieces!

Speaking of always in the garage fixing things, David Williams and his son Garrett run a Dodge Neon, or parts of several Dodge Neons flying in close formation, with the aptly named Williams Rallye Team.



Greg Cheney flinging dirt in the Molten Orange Ford Fiesta ST at a RallyCross.

Dan Colburn and Cameron Case make up Boost Brothers Garage competing in a Subaru this year, including some real, big time stage rally. For the past several years they tried and failed miserably to blow or break apart a 1992 Dodge Shadow ES. It still exists driven by Vincent Woska and Alex Nelson.

Hot Hatch Racing includes Erik and Clarissa Votipka in a Mini Cooper, and there is rumor some family members got so excited at the last KCR rallycross they are going to start competing with a Not-Miata Mazda.

On the Kansas region side Ben Hanke, Will Wilson and Caleb Maggard make up Misfit Racing Team in a multi-color Subaru and a silver 1996 Honda Civic. Perennial competitor Mark Hill and Jayhawk Racing comes to all events from Lawrence, definitely needing eight tires for grip, but is relegated four.

Trofeo Rally Team's Nefty Bloom holds the #Drives_the_most_miles_to_rallycross record as he brings his Subaru from Wichita Region to all of the local events.

In every racing group there is always #badnews and it comes from our area in the form of Steven Bright and SBX Racing. Bad News consists of a pair of Audi TT Quattro Coupes. One red and one yellow so he can tell the difference.

Then there is Larry G, Forrest and Candyce Smith of Bluegill-Dingus Racing rallycrossing whatever is parked closest to the street on Sunday morning.

And yours truly drives the Molten Orange Ford Fiesta ST under Wahoo Racing. Wahoo! is all you ever need to know if you have a question about rallycross! Come join us, put your team together and let's get dirty!



RallyCross could always use help with the set up and/or tear down at events. Want to see what RallyCross is all about? Stop by for the event, cheer on fellow members, and lend a helping hand.

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT with MARK HILL

AUTOCROSSING ON STEROIDS!



No, no...don't do drugs and Autocross. I'm talking about The TireRack SCCA ProSolo Series, "America's Premier Autocrossing Championship series"!

Never done a ProSolo? Well, that's where the Autocross-on-steroids comes in. If you get off on the adrenaline and competitive challenges of Autocross...you'll LOVE the ProSolo series. This year some huge changes make the sport even better...I'm talking about big cash prizes, special CAM awards, more runs etc.

What is a ProSolo?

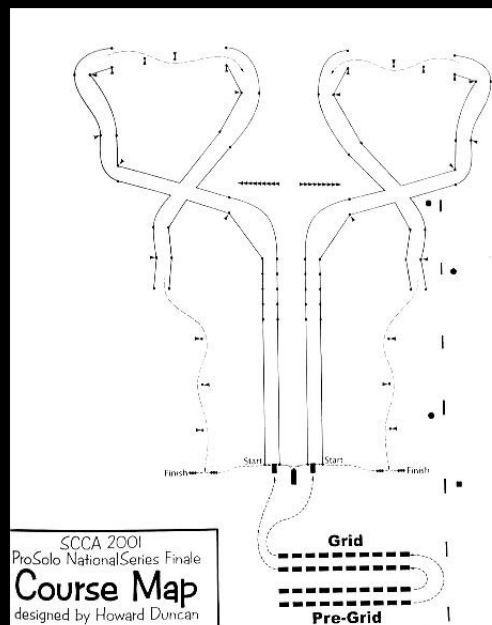
It's still an Autocross, but with two courses, side by side and mirrored (although in the 1st Pro of this year in Peru, Indiana...it's the first time I've ever seen two different courses...one 3rd gear fast, the other tight and technical). Drivers of the same class line up, side-by-side, on each course and start off, with engines revving to perhaps 6000 rpm for some, drag-racing style--when the "Christmas Tree" lights drop, inducing heart pounding excitement as your adrenal gland dumps its load in your veins. A perfect reaction time (RT) is .500 and anything above that means you left precious time on clock that adds to your overall course time...anything under .500 means you left early and is known as a Red Light (RL) and your run doesn't count. This is all just the very beginning of the adrenaline release and impending madness.

When you come off on your side of the course you immediately come back around and line up on the other course ready to run again...all within just maybe 30 or so seconds in between. By now you're out of breath, your hands are shaking...if you have a clutch you'll notice your leg trembles every time you inch forward towards the start. Now you have to add hyperactivity in to the mix...to all this... that's going on, all you can hear is the fast-talking loud blare of the announcer's speakers just a few feet away...launches of other cars ahead and you still have to mentally "fix" any mistakes you did on the last side...knowing, in just a few seconds, you'll have the next course to concentrate and drive to the best of your abilities (my "favorite" part is when I do my own tire pressures myself---while in line...I jump out of the car, Chinese-fire-drill style, only to add FRET to my emotions when I have trouble lining up the tire gauge end with the air valve because my hands are trembling so badly...all while keeping an eye on the forward progress of cars in line in front of me).



You'll repeat this diabolical mixture of fun a total of four runs in the morning on Saturday and another white-knuckled 4 runs in the afternoon...the madness continues with yet another four on Sunday morning. After all 12 runs, your best time on each side is combined and is used to score and rank you in the ProSolo. Class podium winners can win tire(s), money, brake components, etc. (depending on contingencies and number of drivers in your class). Although you are competing against your class competitors, you are also working for a chance to enter the "Super Challenge" or the "Women's Challenge". You could also get into a (limited to 8 drivers) randomly selected "Bonus Challenge". Win one of these and its more tire(s), etc. The winner of the Bonus gets a free entry.

Typical ProSolo Course Layout



Finally, after all the carnage, on Sunday afternoon the Women's Challenge is held, then the Bonus Challenge, now it's the new CAM challenge, then the big one...the Super Challenge. It is a bracket made up of the top 32 drivers (class winners get in automatically) and go head to head in a single-elimination round. If a driver can, in a heart clutching manner...avoid hitting cones or making a mistake or red-lighting...there way against 12 of the best drivers in a row, they are crowned the winner! Are you getting my drift about ProSolo, now?

For 2020, besides Covid-19 induced changes, including online/digital tech and check-in, ProSolo also has seen these new changes:

- CAM CLASS has its own challenge and special year-end award.
- NEW classes for women and 4 new street open classes. For example, my STU classed Evo is in "S4" a group made up of nothing but all-wheel drive cars.
- NEW "Christmas Tree" lights, that got many people into Red-Light country, until they got the hang of them...if they ever did. (The cadence of the lights got me to RL 3 times in Peru)
- ONE PRACTICE RUN on one side for all challenge drivers if they choose, just before a competitor's actual run. No cones will be called and no stopping for downed cones for a rerun on the practice run.
- CASH PAYOUT for the year-end Super Challenge overall winner increased to \$5000...up from \$600 from last year, with prize money increase for other winners, also.

SO, if you missed out on the Topeka ProSolo June 27th and 28th, and I've got you interested--- just a three hour drive from Kansas City is the Lincoln Summer Nationals Solo Tour and ProSolo (it's the spring Nationals that where postponed from May to Mid August). Registration opens July 15th. Anyway, it's a great time to get seat time just two weeks from the TireRack SCCA Solo National Championships. Also keep in mind the Lincoln Midiv August 8-9th.

CONGRATULATIONS:

AT THE JUNE 27-28th TOPEKA PROSOLO-

KC region's James King (#185 AS Corvette) winner of the Bonus Challenge.

Kansas region's Brian Tefft Jr. (#185 E Street MR2 Spyder) 2nd place win in the Super Challenge.

ALSO, KCR & KS region class trophy winners:

Rusty Henderson (#123 CAM Camaro)--5th

Jeremey Scotton (#83 CAM Mustang)--9th

Craig Wilcox (#198 S1 Civic)--2nd

Greg Reno (#36 S5 Mini Cooper)--2nd

Mark Hill (#45 S4 Evo)--2nd

Brad Smith (#188 RT 1 Doofwagon)--3rd

Ron Williams (#97 Bump Civic)--1st

Brian Tefft Jr. (#185 ES MR2)--1st

See you out there!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

3-time SCCA Champion, 500+ class AX wins.

How much faster would you take the next AX/RX element, if you knew you could not fail??

Kansas City Region SCCA

Driven by Volunteers since 1952

Kansas City Region SCCA is proud to be a volunteer-run organization. Check out the current volunteer opportunities below and have fun with cars while helping our Club continue to thrive!

Club Racing is always looking for volunteers. The SCCA provides training and licensing in all the specialties to run road racing events. Novices start with a regional license in the specialty of their choice and, with experience, may upgrade to divisional and national status.

You will need to be a member of the SCCA to work at the races and be covered by the SCCA's insurance. Contact Chris Kern if you're interested. Track Night in America is also looking for volunteers.



Get more info [here](#).

Have a story you want to share with the members? Let us know! We can get the details and write it for you. Or even better, you can write and send it to Jessica Dorn, editor.



We are also always looking for pictures of events, your cool cars, and racing life in general! The more you share, the better our website and newsletter will be!

Do you have website knowledge. We are looking for a team of website administrators and editors to help update the website.





UPCOMING EVENTS

KCR Solo Events—Cohosted with KS Region #3 & #4	July 11-12	Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka, KS
Track Night in America	July 17 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka, KS
Road Racing—Heartland Summer Majors & MiDiv Time Trials Series	July 17-19	Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka, KS
Race Group Meeting	July 21 7:30 pm	The Bar 6101 Johnson Drive Mission, KS
Solo Event #7 ***Tentative depending on MCC reopening***	July 26	MCC—Precision Driving Independence, MO
Board Meeting	July 28 7:00 pm	TBD
Solo Advisory Council Meeting	August 4 6:00 pm	TBD
Membership Meeting	7:30 pm	
Unnaturally Aspirated (UA) Charity Event	August 8	TBD
RallyCross Event	August 9	TBD
Track Night in America	August 12 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka, KS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Solo School	August 15	MCC—Precision Driving Independence, MO
Solo Event #8	August 16	MCC—Precision Driving Independence, MO
Race Group Meeting	August 18 7:30 pm	The Bar 6101 Johnson Drive Mission, KS
Indianapolis 500 Watch Party	August 23 11:30 am—2:30 pm	TBD
Board Meeting	August 25 7:00 pm	TBD

Meet the Board:

Al Hermans, Board Member



SCCA Member since: 2004

KC Region Involvement:

- Started autocrossing with region in 2001. Started with same car I use today, but with just a few more modifications to try to be competitive in CP.
- Member of SAC since its inception.

- Solo Chair 2011-present
- Board of Directors 2015-present
- Instructor—Street Survival

SCCA Involvement:

- Divisional Solo Steward and SDC 2010-present
- MiDiv Time Trials Participant 2018-2019
- One of the Chiefs of Safety at Solo Nationals 2018-2019

Licenses Held:

SSS, SSS Instructor, JDP Course Design, JDP SSS, JDP Tech Inspector, JDP Youth Steward, JDP Instructor, TT Intermediate

Personal:

I've been a civil engineer for the last 35 years. This involves design of sites and structures and tenant finish for commercial and residential clients. I own my own company but only have one employee, me.

I have also served on the BOD of Friends of Chicago & Alton Depot in Independence since 1998. I have played cello with the Heritage Philharmonic Orchestra since 1989.



Get to know your Board on the [website](#) or wait for next month's installment of "Meet the Board."

2020 Kansas City Region Board of Directors

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Assistant RE	Tara Young	(913) 250-6050
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Secretary	Ed Nicholson	(816) 560-4461
Director	Al Hermans	(816) 564-6176
Director	Bill Johnson	(816) 805-3571
Director	Jeremy Salenius	(913) 608-1648
Director	Greg Cheney	(913) 522-4940
Director	Tim Friest	(913) 250-6050
Director	Reuben Samuels	(535) 307-1473

2020 Kansas City Region Contacts

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Rally Chair	David Williams	
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KVRG Board	Charlie Clark	(816) 257-7305
KVRG Board	Chris Kern	(913) 558-1265