



CHECKPOINT

Kansas City Region SCCA

January Newsletter

RE Comments

**The Story Behind the Award:
Norma Williams Award of Excellence**

Get Your KCRX Gear Today

**In the Driver's Seat with Mark Hill:
In the Quest of "My Kind of Seat Time"**

2021 MiDiv Series

2021 Track Night in America Schedule Released

2021 KCRX Tentative Schedule

Save the Date—Heartland Spring Majors May 14-16, 2021

Driven by Volunteers—Seeking Content Creators and Photographers

Upcoming Events

2021 Kansas City Region Contacts

RE Comments



I started racing in late 2001 and ever since then the "Off-Season" months from November to March seemed to slowly drag by. Not that I wasn't busy, I was just wanting to get back on track. I think the Covid-19 situation has made it feel that way all over again. Last year we had so many racers that were tired of being cooped up on lockdown, we saw the best attendance at our July Majors Race and Time Trials series that we have seen in years. I feel 2021 will be the same way.

There are many ways to get on track this year, even if you don't have a race car. Starting with Track Night in America, you have 7 dates at Heartland Motorsports Park where you can drive your own car on the race track in three 20 minute sessions for only \$150. It's a bargain. If you are

worried about insurance on a race track our sponsor Hagerty Insurance has you covered providing insurance for just that event for very reasonable amounts. The next step up is The MidAm Time Trials Series, which has 5 events this year on Majors and Regional race weekends. Here is the 2021 Time Trials Series schedule:

May 15-16 – KVRG @ Heartland Motorsports Park
June 19-20 – St. Louis @ World Wide Raceway
July 10-11 – KVRG @ Heartland Motorsports Park
July 24-25 – AVRГ @ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit
August 7-8 – St. Louis @ World Wide Raceway

The Time Trials series does require more car prep and licensing, but it's a great next step for someone trying to figure out if they want to spend the money for a full blown race car. The new 2021 Time Trials rules have just been completed and by the time you read this they will be posted [here](#) on our website. Check out all the schedules on our home page for RallyCross, Road Racing, Time Trails, and Track Night in America. Our Solo Advisory Committee is still working on new locations for the KC Region Solo calendar. Keep checking our Facebook page and website for updates. As I write this it is only 31 days until our next RallyCross Event and only 79 days until the first event at Hallett. I hope to see you soon out at the track.

Mike McGinley, RE

The Story Behind the Award:

Norma Williams Award of Excellence

by Bill Johnson

The Norma Williams Award of Excellence was "presented in recognition of unsurpassed dedication and service to the membership of the Kansas City Region of SCCA." This award will be accompanied by a traveling trophy and will be presented to members who participate in one or more of the motor sports programs of SCCA, have served as an officer or chairman of an event, and have volunteered for additional responsibilities during the year. It will be selected by the Board.

If you've been a member of the region anytime in the last 20 years, you know Norma. For longer than can be remembered, Norma, or "Mom" as she was known to many, was the gatekeeper of the region's membership and finances. She licensed all new drivers, kept the logbooks, and served on the Board as Treasurer and Director for countless years. No mention of Norma could be made without her husband Charlie, a multi time national championship engine builder in what was arguably the clubs toughest class.



Norma & Charlie Williams



Charlie & Norma Williams shown with their 3 children
and 6 grandchildren in front of their shop.

Taken in March 2014 at their retirement party.

Norma and Charlie operated out of their shop, Charlie Williams Import Car Center on 47th street on the north end of Westwood. For those that went to see Charlie, there weren't many conversations that didn't involve Norma. In a time where little could be done online, if you needed a membership, a log book, patches or stickers it usually involved a trip to see Norma and a long conversation. Because of this, there probably was nobody as "in tune" to the individual members as Norma. She even published a gossip column in the region's newsletter, Checkpoint, to help members keep up with their friends and their families – it was the most read part of Checkpoint.



Sharlene Smith & Norma Williams welcoming members to the KCR Annual Awards Banquet at the registration booth.

Norma along with Sharlene Smith put on an untold number of the region's annual awards banquets and were the region's "face" at the welcome tent when the Runoffs were at Heartland Park, something no other region had ever been able to do at any Runoffs.

Of course no trip to see Norma was complete until she gave an update on her boys and her grandkids.

Charlie was supportive of everything Norma did for the region. Charlie passed away peacefully at home with Norma by his side on May 2, 2020.

For all Norma Williams did for the region over so many years, the Award of Excellence is given in her name.



YAKETY YAK....

Dear Mom:

DON'T LOOK BACK....



YAKETY YAK....DON'T LOOK BACK was the column written by Norma Williams in the Checkpoint since 1990.



On the front page of the February 2010 edition of the Checkpoint, the first mention of the Norma Williams Award of Excellence was found under the apt title, "KC Region Honors Long Time Member." The article went on to say, "The first recipient was Norma, however for the first time in more than 30 years, Norma was not able to attend the banquet." Days before the banquet, Norma came down with a severe case of the flu causing her to miss the presentation of the award. Charlie Williams, her husband, Betty Ruckman, her daughter, Anna, her granddaughter, along with Matt were there to receive the award on her behalf. Pictured to the left is Charlie Williams accepting Norma's trophy at the 2009 Awards Banquet.

Get Your KCRX Gear Today

You may have noticed over the last couple years, as the KCR RallyCross program has grown, it has also adopted a new logo and branding. Member Reuben Samuels and his business, AWOL Systems has been at work creating this new image to further the success that the program has seen.



"I really wanted to create a brand for the program that would be quickly identifiable and set us apart from other RallyCross programs around the country. I wanted to create a look and feel that got drivers excited for each new year and gave them gear they could wear and be proud of in letting others know they love this region and this motorsport. It's all been a work in progress to really solidify #KCRX in front of the national SCCA and keep us growing into a major part of KCR."



Since creating the KCRX logo, AWOL Systems has designed annual liveries, clothing, face coverings and decals. This branding has extended into the Facebook posts and into the championship trophies. KC has even gotten praise from other regions for the design work.



"For 2020 we were asked to design the National Championship tee. While at the event we were complimented by folks from Tennessee, Milwaukee, and other regions that had seen the logo. We also partnered with KSR and produced a decal pack for both regions that made some additional revenue for both regions at that event."

All of the KCRX items and many others being offered are available for purchase at www.AWOLsystems.com in the "rad gear" area. 50% of the profit from sales of RX items comes directly to KCR either to fund the RX program needs or directly into general KCR operations.



REMINDER:

We have decided to cancel in-person general membership meetings until further notice. Our concern for the safety and health of our members is at the forefront of this decision.

Please check out our Meeting Minutes from the Board Meeting on January 26, 2021 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!

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT with MARK HILL

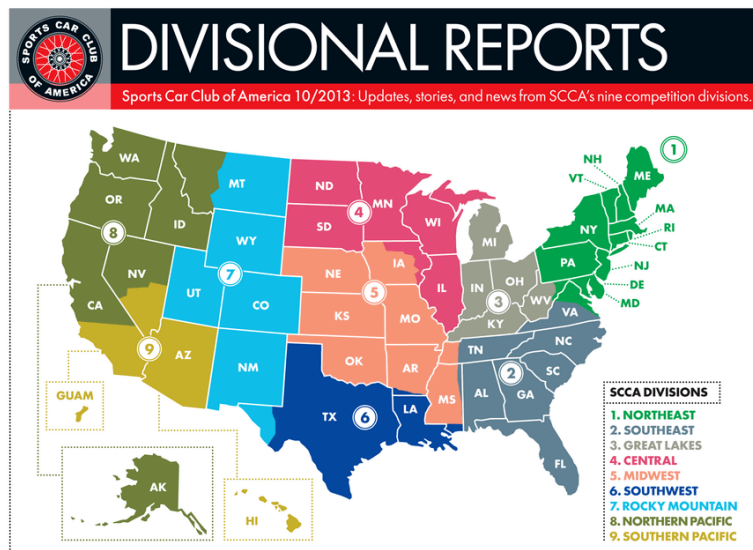
IN THE QUEST OF "MY KIND OF SEAT TIME"



In my last article in the CHECKPOINT, I talked about driving techniques—one of them was the importance of seat time. I mentioned a particular type as “my kind of seat time”... however, due to space limitations, I was not able to explain it further which prompted questions like, “If going to all the KCR AX/RX or National events don’t count as your kind of seat time, then what does?” I’m glad they asked. To explain, please let me go back a few years so you can better understand why and how I use this methodology.

Since I was ten, I’ve always been involved in organized sports. Though I participated in many types, the one constant I had was a coach (not counting my life-coach father, & Navy fighter pilot). I benefited from each one, but none more than Bob Timmons (Google him, now). What I’ve learned, I have been able to apply successfully to other sports like Martial Arts and now Motorsports. I know that regardless of your level of talent, coaching and practice is instrumental in all sports...from 9-year-old little leaguers to, say...Patrick Mahomes. I bring this up, so I can point out that in AX & RX there is no real practice at all, nor do we have coaches (i.e. crew chiefs). Furthermore, our five minutes of seat time is often limited to 8-10 once-a-month regional events where you are competing for, but not limited to: class points, pax points or just against yourself...and you don’t dare try, for instance, a totally new technique (or 2-3), because you don’t want to ruin what could be your best run. Driving in these events, is like a basketball team that only plays when they are competing against another team...with no practice...and no coach...for 5 minutes. You can imagine their success. So, when I say “my kind of seat time”, it is not at local or National events (though ANY seat-time still helps). My kind of seat time is at other mid-div region’s sites.

We are very lucky. Kansas City is uniquely located within 1 and 3.5 hours of 8 or 9 SCCA regions, including the site of the Solo Nationals and Pro Solo Finale. That means between mid-March and late November, there is an event...somewhere... every Sunday and a lot of Saturdays (ask me how I know). That’s over 30 events. What I suggest is for you to go to as many of those events as possible, but not to “compete”.



When you go to them, do as you might do in our local events...if you have competitors in your class with a similar car, ask about their car set-up. Listen to their exhaust note while on course to hear when they are on/off the gas and watch when/where you see their tail lights. Pick other driver's brains. Ask questions like: are you tight on that first cone before that sweeper? etc. Since these are new-to-you drivers, you could get valuable and fresh tips. Get ride-a-longs with the local fast guys and vice-a-versa. Ask for multiple-element feed-back on your driving from the fast guys, ones in your class AND the ones who were working while you were running, they saw everything you did...yes, coaching! Stay for their fun-runs. Go to their test and tunes and attend an EVOLUTION School. Since their surfaces are different, you will gain insight and knowledge in your car's set-up behavior, as well. This will help back home.

In these now "practice" events, with no pressure to perform, this is the time to try different car set ups, spring rates/shocks, techniques, theories, ideas and even tire scrub-in. Go back to October's 2020 CHECKPOINT, make a copy of my driving tips and take it with you. I might add, even if you are using data-acquisition, be careful not to combine more than one new item per run. If you combine items, it's possible you won't know which one actually helped. I don't remember how many times I "fixed" multiple mistakes from an earlier run, only to be shocked when my new time was slower.

Okay, so now you have an avenue to get faster with practice seat-time. Good! I should tell you that you will have to constantly remind yourself you are not competing. I guess, its just human nature, but I bet you will experience an overwhelming compulsion to just drive as fast as you can, with the same 'ole habits to try and get a good time. If you succeed and do have a good practice, be prepared to have your class or PAX competitor to be happy they "beat" you...just swallow your pride and know you are learning and getting faster.



Next, is the coaching aspect of your strategy. Well, for AX & RX you probably are going to be your own coach. (I don't think RACERS360 will help experienced AX/RX drivers, but maybe you could try them...its \$100) This is the hardest part. Unless you've been coached and coached well for many years, chances are you are going to be just O.K. at it. Some reasons can be attributed to the lack of being able to disconnect the driver from the coach in yourself...you're bucking human nature and the difficulties of self-insight. Another is, obviously, it's hard to personally have track-side observation of yourself, like a crew chief does. Sure, we all correct things we think we did wrong on course when we get back to grid. That's akin to coaching, but one could easily say, if you have no idea you are doing something wrong, how can you possibly correct it? Or,

even if you do know what you did wrong...how do you know your solution is the best one? You could be stuck in a catch-22 and not even know it.

You, as your new coach, can try this: Many coaches are good because...

- They've learned from the best (get a mentor).
- They've had a great deal of experience (a lot of events).
- They've seen umpteen competitors in umpteen situations (different event & sites).
- They study other great coaches (drivers) and incorporate their ideas, concepts and techniques. After games (events), they study the stats (times & data) of both teams (competitors), watch tape (Go-Pro video) and make appropriate corrections/additions in not only their approach, but during future games (races).

DRIVER + COACH = FULL POTENTIAL

In conclusion, I believe "my kind of seat time" can help solve our two-fold problem in AX and RX. It will give you the practice that will help you grow not only as a driver, but as your own coach...and together, you can reach your full potential.

"Words embody power to inspire or motivate us, but it is only we who have the power to open up to see and feel it" - Anuj Somany

See you out there!



4-time SCCA Champion, 500+ AX wins.

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

2021**Series**

2021 SPS and R&S Racing MiDiv Solo Series

April 24-25	Kansas Region	Heartland Motorsports Park—Topeka, KS
June 5-6	Wichita Region	Sunflower Aerodrome—Hutchinson, KS
June 26-27	St. Louis Region	Family Arena—St. Charles, MO
July 17-18	NeOkla Region	Davis Field—Muskogee, OK
August 14-15	Nebraska Region	Lincoln Airpark—Lincoln, NE

Unless directed otherwise by the national office and/or the governing local authority, SCCA Covid protocols will be observed at all events.

2021 MidAm Championship Schedule

April 17-18	Super Tour @ Hallett (AVRG)
May 15-16	Majors @ Heartland (KVRG)
June 19-20	Majors @ World Wide (St. Louis)
July 10-11	MidAm @ Heartland (KVRG)
July 24-25	MidAm @ Hallett (AVRG)
August 7-8	MidAm @ World Wide (St. Louis)



2021 RallyCross—TBA

2021



Series

2021 Time Trials Series Schedule

May 15-16 KVRG @ Heartland Motorsports Park

June 19-20 St. Louis @ World Wide Raceway

July 10-11 KVRG @ Heartland Motorsports Park

July 24-25 AVRГ @ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit

August 7-8 St. Louis @ World Wide Raceway



2021 RallyCross—TBA

2021 Track Night in America Schedule

Heartland Motorsports Park—Topeka, KS

April 22

May 14

June 17

July 9

August 19

September 14

October 14



2021 KCRX Tentative Schedule

Event #2	Sunday, February 28	Grain Valley Sand Drags	Register for #2
Event #3	Sunday, March 28	Riverside, MO	
Event #4	Sunday, April 18	Joint event with KS Region, site TBA	
Event #5	Sunday, May 2	site TBA	
Event #6	June 12 and/or 13	Riverside, MO	
Event #7	Sunday, July 25	Riverside, MO	
Event #8	Sunday, August 15	Riverside, MO	
Event #9	Sunday, September 12	site TBA	
Event #10	Sunday, October 17	Grain Valley Sand Drags	
Event #11	Sunday, November 7 or 21	Grain Valley Sand Drags	
Event #12	Sunday, December 5	Riverside, MO	

*Tentative schedule is subject to change.





Mark your calendars today and plan to attend our U.S. Majors Tour Road Racing/ Time Trials Event on May 14-16, 2021 at Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka.

Kaw Valley Race Group is proud to announce our 2021 Mid-States U.S. Majors Tour and MiDiv Time Trials Series at Heartland Motorsports Park Topeka May 14-16, 2021. We will be running the 2.5 mile "Runoffs" course all weekend.

The Heartland Spring Majors/Time Trials Series is a 3-day event featuring a test day from 9am-2pm Friday, SCCA's Track Night in America from 4-8pm Friday, and the U.S. Majors Tour and MiDiv Time Trials event Saturday and Sunday.

Online registration will be available on [Motorsportsreg.com](https://motorsportsreg.com) in the future.



Kansas City Region SCCA

Driven by Volunteers since 1952

Kansas City Region SCCA is proud to be a volunteer-run organization. We already know you are talented in at least one of these categories:

- racing cars
- working corners at race tracks
- breaking cars (on and off the track)
- fixing the same car over and over again
- cheering on racers
- enjoying a cold beverage with other people who like cars

But what are your other talents? We are currently looking for assistance in the following areas:



Content Creator for website and social media

You will not need to know anything about websites. You will simply need to prepare content for the website and check to see if any updates need to be made to our calendar. You will be the Region's point of contact in case issues are found with links on the website. You do not need to know how fix it, simply be the person who contacts our website maintenance provider. You will also need to know how to post and create events on Facebook. Contact Mike McGinley if you have additional questions or would like to help!



Pavement Photographers

We need your assistance to get current photos and videos of Solo and Road Race events for our website and social media accounts. Contact Reuben Samuels if you have additional questions or would like to help!



UPCOMING EVENTS

~~Race Group Meeting~~ — ~~February 16~~ — ~~TBD~~



Board Meeting February 23 Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm

KCRX Event #2 February 28 Grain Valley Sand Drags

~~Solo Advisory Council Meeting~~ — ~~March 2~~ — ~~TBD~~
~~6:00 pm~~
~~General Membership Meeting~~ — ~~7:30 pm~~



~~Race Group Meeting~~ — ~~March 16~~ — ~~TBD~~



KCRX Event #3 March 28 Riverside, MO

Board Meeting March 30 Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm

2021 Kansas City Region Board of Directors

Regional Executive (RE)	Mike McGinley	(913) 915-1504
Assistant RE	Bill Johnson	(816) 805-3571
Past RE	Paula Diehl	(816) 225-5100
Treasurer	Jessica Dorn	(308) 830-2257
Secretary	Ed Nicholson	(816) 560-4461
Director	Greg Cheney	(913) 522-4940
Director	Donna Cross	(913) 908-0380
Director	Tim Friest	(913) 250-6050
Director	Chris Kern	(913) 284-3227
Director	Lisa Kern	(913) 558-7668
Director	Reuben Samuels	(535) 307-1473

2021 Kansas City Region Contacts

Membership	Paula Diehl	(816) 225-5100
Race Chair	Chris Kern	(913) 284-3227
Solo Chair	Al Hermans	(816) 564-6176
RallyCross Chair	Dan Colburn	(315) 717-9282
Rally Chair	David Williams	
Checkpoint Editor	Jessica Dorn	(308) 830-2257
Webmaster	Mike McGinley	(913) 915-1504
KVRG Board	Mike McGinley	(913) 915-1504
KVRG Board	Charlie Clark	(816) 257-7305
KVRG Board	Chris Kern	(913) 558-1265