



# The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

Volume 60, Issue 11/12

November/December 2013

## The Starting Line

REport by Pete Sedlak

**Neohio Awards  
Banquet  
February 8, 2014  
Save the date!**

*Happy  
Holidays!*



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*Road Ministries will print in  
January issue.*

Greetings and Salutations one and all! December is here and dare I say it, the dreaded "off season". Time to rebuild, recharge and just plain relax.

As this letter goes out to you, I have just spent a very unplanned trip to visit my family in Colorado. My sister had a major stroke and off to the Pueblo I went! She has had a complete recovery and I have returned home.

Last month's meeting was our annual election meeting. Congratulations to the all on their election to the following positions:

- Jim Green, Assistant R.E.
- Tara Oram, Recording Secretary

- Peggy Dietz, Treasurer
- Jeff Blumenthal, Membership Secretary
- Dan Koplow, Trustee
- Stephanie Hahn, Trustee
- Scott Lunder, Trustee

The 2013 Neohio Awards Banquet is scheduled for February 8, 2014. Please save this date!

In closing, I and the Neohio Board of Trustees, wish you Happy Holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Your humble servant,

Pete Sedlak

## Neohio Hall of Fame Inaugural Inductees

Based on nominations from Neohio members, the Hall of Fame committee selected the following Neohio members as the inaugural inductees. The induction ceremony will take place at Neohio's annual banquet on February 8, 2014.

**Cleo (Ma) Beasley (deceased)** - Neohio RE, founder of the Competition Clinic; 1990 winner of SCCA's Woolf Barnato award.

**Chuck Dietrich (deceased)** - very successful driver in both club and professional racing; national champion.

**Connie Peplowski (deceased)** -

Neohio RE; national administrator Timing & Scoring; Chief of Timing & Scoring for several professional series.

**Bill Benham (deceased)** - Neohio RE; founder of Lake Erie Communications.

**Al Beasley, Sr.** - DSR innovator; national champion; Presidents Cup winner.

**F. Reed Andrews** - Neohio RE; Driver of the Year; successful racer in several classes.

**Fred Baker** - active driver; several time national champion; raced both club & professional series.



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### Monthly Meetings

Neohio Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Any exceptions will be published in *The Blower*.

Meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the private room at Captains Club, 34820 Vine St., Eastlake, OH. Members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Membership meeting dates and times are published in *The Blower*.

### The Blower

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Articles for publication in *The Blower* may be submitted in most Windows based word processing formats. You may mail or e-mail material to the editor or Pete Sedlak (speedchaser43@yahoo.com) by the last day of each month.

### Contributors:

Denny Freeman,  
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Bill Snow

Great Lakes Division website: <http://www.greatlakes-scca.org/>

[www.neohio-scca.org](http://www.neohio-scca.org)

Neohio Region, SCCA  
Meeting Minutes | November 19, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pete Sedlak, Tara Oram, Jim Pracker, Duane Harrington, Peggy Dietz, Dorothy Harrington, Jim Leagan, Bob Doernberg, Roland Hahn, Stephanie Hahn, Jeff Blumenthal

**EXCUSED MEMBERS:** Denny Freeman, Greg Vandersluis, Pat Prill, Mike Puskar

Jim Pracker called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pete Sedlak told the room about Dennis Simko's passing. **MOTION:** to donate \$50.00 to the Western Reserve Hospice in Dennis' memory. Sedlak/Koplow – Approved.

**MOTION** to accept the Minutes as corrected: Jim Leagan/Sedlak – Approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Summary report of projections for previous Nationals and best two quad races.
- **MOTION** to accept treasurer's report as presented. Doernberg/D. Koplow – Approved.

**REPORTS & COMMITTEE REVIEWS:**

**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE:** No scheduling conflicts at this time. Planning meeting went very smoothly.

- Discussion at meeting did occur regarding those regions holding Majors to work with the regions NOT included with the Majors.
- It was brought up that we might be able to work out having an event at Waterford Hills. No interest at this time due to noise restrictions and some other unknown factors at this time. **MOTION** to allow Mahoning Valley Region to move their event to end of July. Du. Harrington/R. Hahn – Approved.
- Mark Connolly has spoken with Pete for other options regarding working with Steel Cities for Driver School. It would be a Dual Division race. Questions regarding who is fiscally responsible, what help would come from divisions, restricted regional included (what classes excluded from regional, but would be in driver school), etc. **MOTION** to continue to look at this opportunity, the nuts and bolts of it, to figure out the best for our region. R. Hahn/Leagan – Approved.
- Pete was approached regarding our website. Looking into new host and possible help in hosting and setting up. Tabled until next meeting. Will have more solid figures and inclusions at that point.

**COMPETITION COMMITTEE:**

- Discussions on what to do with trophies not picked up at the event, including the Clean Sweep awards. We should put in Supps next year that they will not be mailed in the future. **MOTION:** To send out trophies that are still in house from the Quad race – Blumenthal/Oram - Opposed – Failed.
- Email will be sent to those about arrangements for their trophies.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Currently at 524 members. 2 new and 7 expired.

**RALLY:** No report.

**SOLO:** Knows of three new members – but no report at this time. Bill was absent from meeting.

**RALLYCROSS:**

- Event still planned for October 12<sup>th</sup>. Trying to push for a good showing. National and safety steward would like to see good event.

**TIME TRIALS:** No Report. Committee and group basically tabled at this time.

**STREET SURVIVAL SERIES:**

- Bill Crowe would like to talk to board about event, but could not make it tonight. Please table until next meeting.

**HALL OF FAME:**

- Held another productive meeting. Have listing of our inaugural "winners". Working on sponsorship for the dinners and trophies. If anyone has any sponsor ideas, please pass them along.
- The committee has asked that the same board stay in place for next year to build some solid foundation for this purpose. All agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Decoders are order and being processed.
- Banquet date change requested to February 8<sup>th</sup>. **MOTION:** To change the date of the banquet to February 8, 2014. Koplow/Sedlak – Approved. We are set for Pine Ridge. Stephanie has asked for some help regarding the planning.

**MOTION** to recess meeting until after election committee complete R. Hahn/Koplow – Approved.

**MEETING BREAK AT 7:38p until Election closes --- RE-ADJOURNED AT 8:24p**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- All those nominated were elected. James Green accepted write in vote for Assistant RE. All ballots certified.
- Next meeting discussion will include nominations for trophies.
- MiniCon from the NorthEast had good ideas for membership including MailChimp. Will discuss more next month.
- **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:38pm – Blumenthal/R. Hahn - Approved.

Respectfully submitted: Tara Oram  
November, 2013 – Approved | FINAL

# DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8
December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15
December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
December 23	December 24	December 25 Christmas	December 26	December 27	December 28	December 29
December 30	December 31	January 1 New Year's Day	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5
January 6	January 7 7 P Trustee Mtg /Comp Board Mtg, Captain's Club, Eastlake	January 8	January 9	January 10	January 11	January 12
January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18	January 19



## Neohio Hall of Fame Call for "Friends of the Neohio Hall of Fame"

Neohio Region is seeking "Friends of the Neohio Hall of Fame", both individuals and businesses, to financially support the Neohio Hall of Fame.

The costs related to the Hall of Fame will be for the awards, dinner tickets (2) to the Neohio banquet, and a permanent plaque which will list all inductees. We hope that Neohio members and business partners will see value in honoring our history

by supporting the Hall of Fame. Supporters will be mentioned at the annual banquet and listed on the Hall of Fame program. If a single supporter contributes a large amount, that person's name/company could go on the individual awards.

Anyone interested in being a "Friend of the Neohio Hall of Fame" should contact Dorothy Harrington, doubledlh@hotmail.com by October 31, 2013.

**Please remember to update  
your e-mail address with SCCA National office.**

**This will ensure that all communications  
regarding Neohio events are forwarded correctly.**

## Regional Championship Winners

Regional Championship Winners follow.

There is a tie for T-4 between Robert Piekarczyk and Greg Vandersluis.

Daniel Koplow	ITE
Mike Cyphert	GT-3
Tom Sloe	T-2
Al Franzolino	DSR
Al Gaudino	GT-1
Daniel Simmons	EP
Michael Sestilli	HP
Bob Kucera	SM
Bill Hornack	SRF
Guy Bellingham	FV
Greg Schnell	ITS

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## Information for Area 4 Members – Oct., 2013

Dear Area 4 Members,

The BOD October meeting was a particularly busy and important one. This month's FasTrack shows 32 pages of Minutes with the results of these key decisions (<http://scca.cdn.racersites.com/prod/assets/13-fastrack-nov-BoD.pdf>). It takes an incredible amount of time to understand the issues; I can assure you, no item is taken lightly. Here are some things you need to know:

### **Departure of President and CEO Jeff Dahnert**

Nothing lasts forever. Jeff and the SCCA are amicably parting after some solid work together. I have had the pleasure of working with Jeff during his tenure at SCCA. You could not find a more honest, ethical, dedicated person to head the organization. We thank him for his service to our club. Lisa Noble has resigned as Chairman of the Board and been appointed interim President while we search for a replacement. John Walsh has been elected Chairman of the Board to fill the remainder of Lisa's term. More info here: <http://www.scca.com/news/index.cfm?cid=51655>

### **Solo Rules Changes**

One of the more controversial items we needed to consider was the establishment of a new street tire based category called "Street Category". The current Stock Category will be renamed Street-R Category for 2014, and then be reduced to a single class (SSR) in 2015. So, if you are running on R-Comps, you have a place to play. But outfitting your current Stock Category car with street tires will move you to Street Category where we expect to grow a large competitive field. I supported this move for many reasons – ease of entry for new members, the need to have Stock really be stock and the longer cycle life street tires afford. Granted, R-Comps are probably more fun. But you still can race with them if you wish.

There were many other Solo items considered. The SEB (Solo Events Board) and Chairman Steve Hudson did an excellent job backing their recommendations with facts and statistics on why they believe these changes will benefit the sport; kudos to the SEB and their ad hoc committees for their thorough preparation and planning.

### **Club Racing Rules Changes**

Similarly, there were many rules changes for Club Racing in 2014. The CRB (Club Racing Board) and Chairman Jim Wheeler were also well prepared to support their recommendations. One of the key new ideas adopted was including additional qualified members, in addition to Stewards, to serve on the COA (Court of Appeals). Having served on this Court, it takes common sense and a thorough knowledge of the GCR (General Competition Rules) to be effective. This is not necessarily only a Steward skill set. Many of our drivers have a comprehensive understanding of our rules and would be excellent COA members. If you are interested, let me know.

The GCR has been substantially updated to include the Majors program and all that it entails. There were many members involved in the vetting process. The Book is not perfect, but it will be up to date for 2014.

One of the more controversial issues considered was the inclusion of the F600 cars (motorcycle powered with manual transmission) into the current F500 (snowmobile engines and variable transmission) class. It was decided to combine the classes, but restrict the motorcycle engines to a spec line to prevent them from over-dogging. F500 is healthy and competitive and we wish to keep it that way. F600 should grow quickly and we want to encourage them. Responsible class management will allow both to grow.

The BOD was also petitioned to give GTL a "probationary" year to grow their numbers into a sustainable Majors-eligible class. That is exactly what we effectively did. Hopefully, some of the new builds will make it on track in 2014 and bring their numbers up. Class participation drives class management. It is all about the desire for competition.

*(Harris continued on page 7.)*

### **Regional and Divisional Website Templates / Webmaster for GLD**

The Regional/Divisional Website template is now available. The template is important to unite the various Regional and Divisional websites into a common “brand”. If you are interested, let me know and I will connect you to the folks in Topeka that can help launch your program. You will need to commit your Webmaster to some Wordpress training, but I understand it is fairly easy with no programming skills required. BTW – Great Lakes Inc. still seeks a Webmaster for the GLD website. This should be much easier now with the template available. Let me know.

### **BF Goodrich Tires Worker of the Year**

Congratulations to Dr. Karen Crider from Detroit Region. Karen was named Great Lakes Division BFG Worker of the Year at a presentation at this year’s Runoffs. Having worked with Karen many times over the past summers, I’d say she was a very deserving recipient. Way to go Doc!

### **IT Audit of SCCA Home Office**

Incidentally, the SCCA hired an outside consultant to review our IT capabilities and processes. The consultant gave us a solid “thumbs up” along with some very good recommendations for the future. We also have an IT Committee made up of members with experience in the IT community to advise us how to stay current with technology.

### **Great Lakes Scheduling Meeting and Divisional Race Series Review**

The Scheduling Meeting, Saturday November 9, 2013 has been expanded to include a review of the 2014 GLD Divisional Championships. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM at my office in Dayton, Ohio. Directions and motel information can be found here: <http://www.rixan.com/ContactUs/FindRixan/tabid/92/Default.aspx> . Each Region is invited to send three representatives to this meeting. Cincinnati Region is handling the Registration for this meeting through MSR. Go here and scroll down to November 9: <http://www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/calendar>

The traditional Roundtable meeting will move to March. All SCCA Groups (Club Racing, Solo, PDX, Club Trial and etc.) along with all Club Racing Specialties will be giving the opportunity to hold meetings/training at Spring Training on March 15, 2014 in Findlay, Ohio.

### **NCM Motorsports Park**

Our audit of The National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, KY has moved to this Saturday, October 28. We will do a first level track review. This looks like a great track, well positioned in GLD. The NCM has invited the SCCA to use the facility and this inspection starts that process. We’ll keep you informed.

### **2014 National Convention**

I am repeating this headline because it is important. If you missed the notice, the National Convention moves to Charlotte, NC next year. We are joining forces with National Trade Productions to establish the North American Motorsports Expo as part of our National Convention, March 7 – 9, 2014. Now, you racers have a good reason to attend the National Convention. More info here: <http://www.scca.com/news/index.cfm?cid=51448>

### **Video – Why We Race**

I leave you with a short film by Claudio Giovanzana that was shot at the 2013 Runoffs. It really captures the passion of our sport. Enjoy: <http://vimeo.com/77072338>

As always, let me know if there is anything you need.

Yours for a better SCCA,

*Steve*



# The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA  
November / December 2013

Laura O'Neill  
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## I'VE GOT IT - YOU WANT IT

## Classified Ads For Members

Classified ads are a privilege to Neohio members. Each ad will run for three issues. If your item sells before the third month, please contact *The Blower* newsletter editor to remove the ad.

### CARS

For sale, 1974 Datsun 260Z, automatic, good condition, only 63K original miles. Contact Jim Hilton 231-369-2273 (home), 231-384-1655 (cell), or jlh65elc@acegroup.cc for more info.\*\*\*

'08 Pontiac Solstice T2, great condition, < 7500 total miles. Contact Bill at 440-821-6421.\*\*\*

Looking for a car to rent for upcoming events? We have an H Production Honda and GT3 Pinto available. For details contact Maurice LaFond evenings at 440-946-2207.\*\*\*

### MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Trailer FOR SALE – Carry-On Model 7X15SF2BRK. 1650# Empty Wt./5350# Capacity 7000#GVWR. Full Steel Floor and Slide in Ramps. Dual Axle with Elec. Brakes on both Axles. Many extras including Spare tire & wheel, snap track on floor, Wireless brake controller, tool box, 4 over the wheel ratchet straps and other accessories. Bought in 2013 and used 5 times this season. 15 ft. bed, and 20 ft. overall length. Over \$4000 invested, will sell for \$3000. Contact rsmith@spang.com for more info or questions.\*

For ads, other than a classified at, the following rates apply:

- Full Page** \$90 / month  
(8" x 9.5") \$250 / 3 months
- 1/2 Page** \$45 / month  
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- 1/4 Page** \$25 / month  
(4" x 5") \$65 / 3 months
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(3.5" x 2") \$40 / 3 months

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