



The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

Volume 65, Issue 9

September 2018

The Starting Line

REport by Maddie Oswalt

Upcoming Events

**Solo Events
September 30 &
October 21**



**Johnny Appleseed
Rally - October 13**



**Street Survival Event
October 20**



**Annual Meeting
November 20, 7 PM
Winking Lizard**

Hello and Happy September!

I wanted to give everyone a heads up about our annual meeting! It will be at the Winking Lizard at 7pm on November 20th. We will be holding elections which brings me to my next point: Nominations! We need people nominated to elect! Regional Executive, Assistant Regional Executive, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 trustee positions are open to be elected. Please send me your nominations and we will get written acceptance from the nominee. We are looking for new people to join the Board with new ideas. This is your club and the best way to see the results you want to see is to run for positions.

The deadline for hall of fame nominations is October 31st, so please email Sherrie Weitzenhof with your Hall of Fame nominations! The nominee does not have to be a current member, but must have contributed during their time as a member. They should have spent a substantial amount of time with Neohio members. If you would like to nominate a driver, pick someone who has represented the region at the national or professional level. Email Sherrie at sweitzenho@aol.com. With your nominees!

Some quick event updates:

The Johnny Appleseed Rally is October 13th. We hope to see a lot of you there! Visit the website for more details.

September 30th is the next Solo event- only 2 more left this season! The last solo of the season is October 21st.

Last, our next Street Survival Event is October 20th at the Lake County Captain's parking lot. If you know a teen who could benefit from this driving school, get them to sign up! Please share this information with parents, teachers, whoever you can think of.

As we move into fall, hopefully everyone is getting the last of their seat time in!

Region Championship Points

The points system has been restructured into groups of classes versus each class for end of year awards.

You do not have to submit points at the end of the year as you have in the past. NEOHIO will track them during the year. Each month points will be posted at <https://neohioscca.com/road-racing/region-championship-points/>, in the *Blower*, and on Facebook.

If you see a points discrepancy, contact Debbie LaFond for correction.

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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 Winking Lizard, 25200 Miles Road, Bedford Heights, OH 44146. 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 RE at regexec@neohioscca.com by the last day of each month.

Contributors:

Jeff Blumenthal, Duane Harrington, Debbie LaFond

Rallymasters needed!

Northeast Ohio was once a hotbed of road rally activity. We'd love to be able to present a proper Regional Rally Championship series once again. To achieve this we will need some "new blood" to volunteer to help organize rallies, as well as some experienced rallymasters to emerge from dormancy to serve as mentors.

Please contact Greg Lester if interested.

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Great Lakes Division Website
www.greatlakes-scca.org/

Neohio SCCA Website
www.neohioscca.com

Neohio Region, SCCA

Meeting Minutes APPROVED | August 7, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob MacDonald, Joe Blaha, Jim Green, Bob Nick, Michael Oswalt, Jim Pracker, Ray Glover, Tara Oram, Bill Moore, Dave Lancaster, Jason Pokines

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Jeff Blumenthal, Maddie Oswalt

GUESTS: Welcome to all!

Meeting called to order by Duane Harrington at 7pm.

Minutes presented for approval from past meeting. MOTION to accept the minutes as corrected. (made & seconded) Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MOTION – to accept report as presented. (made & seconded) – Approved.

REPORTS & COMMITTEE REVIEWS

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE:

- This meeting will be a Social to reintroduce our membership to the revamped Nelson Ledges track.
- Business for this meeting will be withheld until the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting held at Nelson Ledges and was considered a Social. This meeting's business will be combined with the September agenda.

Next Meeting:

MOTION to adjourn at 7:10 pm. MOTION made & seconded – Approved

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Blumenthal

Neohio Hall of Fame - Call for Nominations

Neohio Region has a rich history of our members bringing honor to the region and/or contributing to the greater good of SCCA racing. Based on that history, Neohio has created a Hall of Fame honoring Neohio members, now in its 6th year. New members will be inducted at the banquet in Winter 2019, adding to the 20 current members.

This is a call for nominations. Nominees can be drivers or workers. Neohio members should send nomination letters (email messages) along with an SCCA bio of the individual to Sherrie Weitzenhof, sweitzenho@aol.com. The Hall of Fame committee (Sherrie Weitzenhof, Dorothy

Harrington, Duane Harrington, Pat Prill, Bob Roberts, & Jeff Blumenthal) will review the nominations based on the criteria, the nomination letter and the bio. The nomination deadline is **October 31, 2018**.

Purpose

To honor those who contributed to the region through their volunteer work or who brought honor to the region for their accomplishments.

Criteria for membership

- Doesn't have to be a current Neohio member but has to have made contributions to the region or SCCA while a Neohio member

- The person spent a substantial amount of time as a Neohio member
- For a driver, it has to be someone who has brought honor to the region for his/her accomplishments on the national or professional level

Nominations

- A Neohio member has to make the nomination
- The nomination must include a letter including why the nomination is being made, plus the person's bio with their SCCA related accomplishments.

DATES To REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 10	September 11	September 12	September 13	September 14	September 15	September 16
September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20	September 21	September 22	September 23
September 24	September 25	September 26	September 27	September 28	September 29 Clare Color Tour, Clare, MI (Detroit Region)	September 30 Solo Points Event - Eastlake
October 1	October 2 7 P Trustee Meeting @ Winking Lizard Bedford Hts.	October 3	October 4 US Road Rally Challenge, Columbia, IL	October 5 US Road Rally Challenge, Columbia, IL	October 6 US Road Rally Challenge, Columbia, IL	October 7 US Road Rally Challenge, Columbia, IL
October 8	October 9	October 10	October 11	October 12	October 13 Johnny Appleseed, Zoar, OH	October 14
October 15	October 16	October 17	October 18	October 19	October 20 Street Survival Event	October 21 Solo Points Event - Eastlake
October 22	October 23	October 24	October 25	October 26	October 27	October 28

Neohio Region, SCCA presents the:

2018 Johnny Appleseed Rally



The Johnny Appleseed Rally will run on **Saturday, October 13, 2018.**

The Johnny Appleseed name is a legacy from a National rally hosted by Neohio Region, SCCA in the 1960's. The approximately 140 mile route will wind through the hills of Ohio's Tuscarawas, Carroll and Harrison counties. Fall foliage should be near peak coloration.

Competitors can expect an absolutely straightforward, gimmick-free time-speed-distance (TSD) road rally. The emphasis will be on precise timing at well-placed controls. The rally counts toward the SCCA Great Lakes Division Rally Championship as well as the SCCA National Touring Rally Championship (Divisional Rally).

A columnar "tulip" route instruction format will be used. Redundant, clarifying instructions will be included anywhere that there is any question of route-following ambiguity. Ample transit mileage will be included to allow competitors to traverse sensitive areas without disturbing residents, and enjoy the route.

Rally Start Location:

The rally will start at the public parking area adjacent to the Firehouse Grill (formerly the Zoar Tavern), 162 Main Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697 (Latitude: N40°36.683', Longitude: W081°25.402').

Tentative Schedule: (All times Eastern Daylight Time)

Saturday, October 6, 2018:

18:00 - "Early" entry cutoff.

Saturday, October 13, 2018:

11:30 - 12:30 – Registration.

11:45 - Mini rally school (experienced competitors welcome).

13:01 - Car #1 starts rally

19:30 (approx) - Car #1 finishes

19:50 (approx.) - Provisional scores posted (hopefully)

20:30 (approx) - Awards.

Competition Classes:

E - Equipment unrestricted.

L – Either: a) Odometer unrestricted, and calculating device restricted only in that it may not be integrated with the odometer and clock, or b) GPS-derived odometer, and any calculating device.

S - Unmodified stock odometer(s) only. Calculating device restricted only in that it may not be integrated with the odometer and clock.

Novice - Class S entry in which neither team member has entered more than 5 TSD rallies previously (simultaneously entered in Class S for championship purposes).

Entry Fees (Please make checks payable to: NEOHIO Region, SCCA):

SCCA members (both driver & navigator): \$40/car before early entry cutoff, \$45/car thereafter.

Others: \$45/car before early entry cutoff, \$50/car thereafter. This entry fee includes the nationally mandated SCCA weekend membership (which entitles the purchaser to a discounted annual membership for a limited time following the event– see www.scca.org for details).

Entry criteria/required equipment:

Entry is open to two-person teams. Each competitor must sign a SCCA liability waiver at registration. Note that the SCCA requires signatures of **both** parents on minor waivers. Please contact the organizers in advance to obtain minor waiver forms.

Each driver must possess a valid automobile operator's license, and be prepared to produce proof of a valid automobile liability insurance policy meeting coverage minimums listed below.

Teams are urged to carry at least one reflective warning triangle or 30 minutes worth of road flares.

Teams are urged to enter early so that car descriptions can be included on the control logs, and the organizers can prepare a sufficient quantity of printed materials for the entire field.

The field will be limited to the first 30 paid entries, or the number of entries received by the early entry cutoff, whichever is greater.

Information : Greg Lester. Ph.(330) 256-6531, WGregoryLester@gmail.com.

Registration: Mail entries, along with check payable to NEOHIO Region, SCCA, to:

Johnny Appleseed Rally
90 Devon Lane #201
Akron, OH 44313

Watch the NEOHIO Region SCCA website: www.neohioscca.com for updates on the rally.

WORKERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to help with prechecks, registration, controls, scoring, etc. Your assistance is invaluable!

Each experienced team may be asked to staff one or more "work/run" controls during this rally.

Other Upcoming Rallies:

September 29, 2018 – **Clare Color Tour**, Clare MI. Detroit Region, SCCA.

October 4-7, 2018 – **US Road Rally Challenge**, Columbia, IL. St. Louis Region SCCA

November 3, 2018 – **Route of All Evil**, Norwich, NY. Central New York Region, SCCA

November 4, 2018 – **Lake Erie Covered Bridges Rally**, Ashtabula, OH. Misery Bay Region, SCCA.

November 10, 2018 – **Pavement Ends**, South Lyon, MI. Detroit Region, SCCA

Entry Form: Johnny Appleseed Rally

Driver: _____ Navigator: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City, State: _____, _____ City, State: _____, _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

e-mail: _____ e-mail: _____

SCCA Member? () Yes () No SCCA Member? () Yes () No

Number: _____ Number: _____

Region: _____ Region: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Minor? (No minor drivers.) Minor? () Yes () No

VEHICLE (Please be as specific as possible; this information may be used by control crews to identify cars.):

Make: _____ Model: _____

Year: _____ Color: _____ License #: _____

State: _____ Distinguishing characteristics: _____

PUBLICITY: How did you find out about this event? _____

COMPETITION CLASS: E L S Novice (Circle or highlight one.)

The entrant warrants that an auto insurance policy with liability limits of not less than \$20,000/\$40,000/\$10,000 is in force for each vehicle entered.

Driver _____ Date _____, Navigator _____ Date _____

Date Entry Received: _____, Check #: _____, Amount: \$ _____

Assigned Car # _____, Generals sent: _____

My 2018 SCCA Solo Nationals Experience

By Jeff Blumenthal

This was my 20th consecutive year at the SCCA Solo Nationals, all in my trusty FMod racecar, the “Orange Stihl Chainsaw”. This year was different for many reasons, including a change in co-drivers and the added challenge of building an FMod car in paddock. Oh, and then there was the pleasant surprise from my niece, letting me know she was getting married the weekend of the ProSolo just before Solo Nats.

I’ve never liked having to choose ‘either, or’. I much prefer ‘and, both’. So arrangements were made for my co-driver, Michelle Quinn, to fly to Cleveland and then drive my truck/trailer to Lincoln, NE. Other arrangements were made to have Ron Madursky stop at my house on his way from Erie, pick up the chassis and boxes of parts for the Project FMod car, and take it to Lincoln in his trailer. I booked a flight to Lincoln and the plan was set. The wedding weekend was wonderful and we celebrated the marriage of my niece Amy and her husband Markeze. My full focus was on the wedding during the weekend. But then it was time to switch gears and focus on the projects waiting for me in Lincoln.

SCCA staffer and fellow FMod driver, Andie Albin, presented an idea at Spring Nationals. The basic idea was to have FMod folks build a car in paddock from spares, and then have SCCA’s Heyward Wagner compete in it. A group of FMod drivers discussed how best to do this. We knew we couldn’t just throw parts together. If we were going to build a car we all wanted to

build a good car. I think alcohol was involved in the birth of the idea, and possibly during the decision to go ahead with the project. The best way to accomplish the task was for me to base the build on a spare chassis I had in my garage. I used my supply of spare parts, and with the help of Sonny Libecco, we mocked up the car for the build. We basically gathered parts and grouped them in ‘kit form’ so it would make assembly easier. All parts were fitted, modified to fit, and bagged with necessary hardware. The car was loaded on the trailer as a roller. Drivetrain, Electric, Plumbing, Brakes, and Chassis Setup were on the list to be done. Nearly the entire FMod group was paddocked together for the first time this year. Monday morning Michelle and friends got our paddock space all set up and a bunch of competitors started on the project car. Throughout Monday afternoon I responded to text questions about the build. The build went well on Monday. My flight got me to Lincoln early Tuesday and I was prepared to take over the build of the project car. Tuesday’s task was installation of the motor and final plumbing. We’d have plenty of time to scale, set up the suspension, and be ready to test on Wednesday. If you asked any of the build participants, they’d all say the least likely problem would be getting the motor to run. And they’d be WRONG. The motor was reasonably fresh, last used by me at the 2017 Solo Nationals. I felt that problems would be avoided if we used the entire drivetrain, electronics, and

fuel setup from 2017. We fired up the motor before noon on Tuesday. We were on schedule. But the motor only ran on one cylinder. No worries, we’re 2-stroke experts. They’re simple. During the day we tried EVERYTHING. Swapped electronics. Swapped carbs. Used a different fuel supply. Different fuel pump. Even installed a different new motor. Took the manifold and exhaust off my car and installed on the project car. Nothing we tried made a difference. Twelve hours later, just before midnight, I went to the hotel for sleep, frustrated but not defeated. I returned to the site at 6am Wednesday. I thought if I pulled everything off the motor, cleaned up, and began alone with a clear head...well I was wrong again. What should have been so simple had us on our knees. We had to give up. Heyward got a co-drive in Zak Keisel’s car and finished in the trophies.

The “Build an FMod in Paddock” project was done and it was time to focus on our competition. I’ve not been as competitive in recent years so my goal was to finish in the top 9, grabbing at least the last trophy spot. My other goal was for co-driver Michelle Quinn to trophy in her first Open competition. I knew she had the talent. I needed to provide a capable car. Those who have been to Nationals (or the Runoffs) know that you have to be prepared for anything. Rarely is it the expected that happens. Be prepared for anything. Anything. I was first driver on our team and halfway through my first run I lost

Continued on page 9.

Continued from page 8.

drive. Knowing it was either the chain or clutch belt, I coasted off the course and got a tow back to paddock. We had to make a quick repair if Michelle was to get her full complement of runs. It was clear that the chain came off. It was also clear that the front drive sprocket had fractured and broken off because there was nothing remaining of it on the driveshaft. That was really frustrating because I had installed the new front sprocket before Nationals, purely as a precautionary preventative measure. After a quick diagnosis, I knew a creative fix was needed if we were to complete the job within the 10 minute mechanical period. I went back to my trailer for a new sprocket while fellow competitors were loosening set screws so we could move the jack shaft. It worked! We got the car back together with less than 2 minutes left in the mechanical period. Catastrophe averted. That is until an SCCA official came to inform us that both Michelle and I exceeded the sound limit of 100db. A corrective change had to be done before our next runs. I scrambled to install a bracket to divert the sound downward and took my run. Shortly after, the official came by and said I was measured at 100.3db and with 2 runs over the limit, I was disqualified. OK...what can we do to make sure that doesn't happen to Michelle? I had purchased a newer silencer this summer and it was being used by Ron Madursky. A few seconds after telling him I needed it, he was helping install it on my car. Michelle did her run and passed the sound meter test by 0.7db. She then took her 3rd run and was in 7th place after the



Jeff Blumenthal

Photo Credit: John Carriere

first day of competition. With help from Michelle's father, Paul, we added sound insulation to the car and knew we'd be ok for day two. Weather was threatening and we had rain tires in grid ready to put on the car. The weather held off and Michelle drove well enough to move up to 5th overall, out of 31 drivers. I was so happy for her. I felt like a proud papa. Michelle became the first woman to trophy in FMod Open competition. She was the focus of some SCCA video crews and the footage is likely to

appear during the SCCA Runoffs broadcast.

Even with the DSQ I think this may have been the most fun I've had at Nationals. Once the car was fixed it performed great. Michelle Quinn finished 5th overall and was the first woman to trophy in FMod Open. We almost succeeded in building a car in grid. We did an Indy style parade (3 wide) from paddock to grid, something never done before. We had a blast! Can't wait til next year to see what awaits us.



Michelle

Photo Credit: Autopix.com

HELP WANTED!

Do you like seeing race cars and drivers up close and personal?

Then we have a place for you! Workers needed in Registration, Grid, Pit/Paddock, Emergency Services, Flagging & Communications

Do you like the feel of control and making decisions?

*Look into working **Start** or getting into the **Stewards** program.*

Do you like to see how cars work and go fast?

*The place for you is **Tech**.*

Do you have time on your hands, but don't like being out in the weather? Do you like computers?

***Time and Scoring** can definitely use those skills.*

Do you like loud noises?

*We need **Sound Control** folks.*

Do you like to help make people happy and celebrate?

*We can use your help with **Hospitality** and trophies.*

Do you like to organize events?

*We always need **Event Chairs** for races and events.*

Do you think you have to be an adult to do any of these jobs?

No - you can work in areas that are not considered "HOT" if you are under the age of 18. These areas are Registration, Tech (not all areas), Timing & Scoring, and Sound.

Contact Debbie LaFond, Competition Board Chair, at fastlady1026@yahoo.com or 440-946-2207. Debbie will connect you with the right people to get you involved!

Solo Schedule

September 30, 2018 Points Event	Eastlake
October 21, 2018 Points Event (Season Finale!)	Eastlake

GLD Rally Schedule

September 29	Clare Color Tour , Clare, MI (Detroit Region) (GLD Championship)
October 4-7	US Road Rally Challenge , Columbia, IL (St. Louis Region)
October 13	Johnny Appleseed , Zoar, OH (Neohio Region) (GLD Championship)
November 3	Route of All Evil , Norwich, NY (Central NY Region)
November 4	Lake Erie Covered Bridges , Conneaut, OH (Misery Bay Region) (GLD Championship)
November 10 (NEW DATE)	Pavement Ends , S. Lyon, MI (Detroit Region) (GLD Championship)

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Nelson Raceway to See Expansions, New Jobs in Coming Years

By Matthew Merchant / Record Courier Reporter

Nelson Township could soon be racing toward a brighter economic future.

On August 17, the Portage County Board of Commissioners officially approved an agreement to create a community reinvestment area (CRA) for the area surrounding the Nelson Ledges Road Course.

The seven-year agreement is formally with Brian Ross Racing and Nelson Sports Inc. Brian Ross and his son, Brian Ross Jr., are the new owners of the 2-mile long raceway and property located off Route 305 near Nelson Kennedy Ledges State Park.

"Mr. Brian Ross plans to construct 7 new structures (at the Raceway property) for equipment maintenance, a tech center, a daily garage, concessions/shelter, employee training, storage, a timing tower and display barn over the next three years," a project summary reads.

Plans call for construction to begin this month.

As part of the project, Ross plans to invest a total of \$1.13 million — \$980,000 in new construction and \$150,000 in improvements to existing buildings — and create 16 new jobs within three years, with a total payroll of \$280,000.

Of those jobs, three will be full-time permanent, four will be full-time temporary, and nine will be part-time permanent.

The CRA allows for a 50 percent tax exemption for seven years on all new construction.

As part of the process, the Nelson Township Trustees provided a letter of support for the project, and both James A. Garfield School District and Maplewood Career Center were notified of the tax abatement.

"The trustees are 110 percent in support of this thing. There's nobody else in the community that is going to invest that kind of money in development," said Nelson Trustee Joe Leonard. "Nowhere else in our townships is someone buying 160 acres and investing the kind of money they're talking about."

A CRA is possible under Ohio Revised Code Section 3735.66. Each year of the agreement, Brian Ross Racing must pay \$500 to the Portage Development Board to comply with Ohio law.

The commissioners must now form a committee to review each year of the agreement. That committee

will be made up of three individuals appointed by the commissioners, two by the trustees, one by JAG and one by Maplewood, and someone from the county auditor's office.

Ross Racing had been looking for a place to invest, even considering building a new track elsewhere. But a few years back they found Nelson Raceway and began investing heavily in the track, including cleaning up tons of old rubber tires that have surrounded the race course for decades.

The commissioners unanimously approved the agreement.

"That's what it's all about. Not only being community investors, but being involved in the community. I think businesses that reinvest back into the community that's given them an opportunity ... tend to be more successful," said Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett.

Advertisement Rates

FREE Classified ads for members.

For non-classified ads, the following rates apply:

- Full Page - \$90 / month (8" x 9.5") \$250 / 3 months
- 1/2 Page - \$45 / month (8" x 5.25") \$120 / 3 months
- 1/4 Page - \$25 / month (4" x 5") \$65 / 3 months
- 1/8 Page - \$15 / month (3.5" x 2") \$40 / 3 months

20% Discount to Neohio member

Payment must accompany ad.

Contact Laura O'Neill at oneill397@windstream.net; (330) 467-4472
or

397 Apple Hill Dr., Northfield, OH 44067



The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

September 2018

Laura O'Neill
397 Apple Hill Drive
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

I'VE GOT IT- YOU WANT IT Classified Ads For Members

Classified ads for Neohio members run for three issues. If your item sells before the third month, contact The Blower newsletter editor to remove the ad.

CARS

'06, Mazda MX5, GT, 31,000 mi. \$19,000 obo. Supercharged MX5. Cruise with top down or stomp on gas pedal and enjoy one FAST track car. Red with black leather interior, soft top excellent condition. Stored winters; Remote keyless; Cosworth Super Charger from Goodwin Racing—adds 100 hp; Hard dog roll bar, Safety harness-6 point G force (also original 3 point belts); Koni Stage 1 adjustable suspension; Bose sound system; Eibach rear sway bar;

New EGR; Up sized fuel pump & injectors; New set of OEM coil packs; GWR stainless header, resonator, exhaust & muffler; Continental summer wet (new) 17X235 on original wheels; Toyo 888 235 track tires (50%) TR3 17X9 wheels; 12-13 lbs of boost from supercharger; upsized fuel pump, injectors; stainless header, midpipe, exhaust all toward 300HP. Upgraded clutch & brake pads. Upgrades & most service by certified mechanic & expert on supercharged NC Miata.***

'77 Jag XJS-Blue/beige, 44,000 orig. mi., body & interior very good condition, V12 has water leak, bad ball joints. Excellent candidate for V8

swap. Sell or trade. Call Gene at 216.848.0038.***

MISC

Free-you haul. Vintage Formula Ford Cortina GT engine, extra Shankle head, Titan exhaust. Hewland Mk 4 4-speed disassembled. F3 clutch, Lotus 51 rear uprights. In storage for ages - some rust and corrosion on pan, gearbox mainshaft, etc. Call Jerry 330-990-6042.*

WANTED

WANTED: wheels for racing Sprite, 13 x 5.5 or 13 x 6". Call Carl Goodwin (440)557-5089 or (719)229-7245; attlastt@frontier.net.*