



# The Blower

Volume 72, Issue 4 April 2025

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Leroy Miata Challenge

May 3rd @ CCPL

Time Trial

May 10 Nelson

Solo Event #1

May 18 IX Center

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## The Starting Line

REport by Bob MacDonald

### IMPORTANT WARNING!

It appears that some clever scammers have been gathering information from our website and are using it in "phishing" attacks. This means they are sending email messages disguising the senders address as me (RE) and providing reasons why the recipient should send someone money, typically via Zelle or PayPal or some other similar service. **DON'T RESPOND, DON'T CLICK ANY LINKS AND DISCARD OR REPORT THE EMAIL AS PHISHING** if your mail client has such a service.

Neither Joe Blaha nor I will ask any member to send money to anyone in such a way. Please don't be fooled.

April has been busy. Before I recap the events of the past three weeks, let's look ahead to upcoming events.

Our first **Autocross** of the year, featuring the **Leroy Miata Challenge**, will be at Eastlake on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Solo Points Event #1** will be at the IX Center on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This year our Solo program is offering a "Season Pass" which is a great opportunity to save on entry fees for the series. Registration for all events is open now!

Our first competition event at Nelson for the 2025 season will be the **Moms Need Speed Too Time Attack** on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be a one-day Time Trials event and will be a great bang for the buck. This will be a points event for the OPTT Challenge, so it's a good opportunity for our Time Trialers to start working toward their 2025 Championship! Registration is open on MSR.

Looking back, we held the first NEOHIO SCCA **Street Survival** event since before COVID at Drive Team on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We had 13 students who are now more skilled and more aware of their surroundings while behind the wheel. Let's hope this continues to contribute to reducing the number of teen fatalities as a result of car crashes.

**Bryan Hall** (Event Lead) and a great team of volunteers made it an outstanding event. Big thank you to **Lisa Hinkle** and the folks at **Drive Team, Inc.** for providing us with a fantastic facility for this event. Please be on the lookout for plans for our next event.

Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> we had a great group of SCCA members, as well as representatives from other clubs, turn out to support the annual **Nelson Ledges Track Maintenance Day**. With such great participation, we were able to complete all the projects that needed to be done and everyone was wrapped up just in time to enjoy some pizza and chicken (courtesy of Nelson Ledges) at about noon and then head home for the rest of the day. Thank you to all who joined us for this event! **Cont. pg 10**



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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 7:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact any Officer or Trustee for a current Zoom link.

Membership meeting dates and times are shown in 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 email material to the editor or RE at regexec@neohioscca.com by the last day of each month.



**Region Points** Regional Championship points are tracked during the year. Each month points are posted at <https://neohioscca.com/road-racing/region-championship-points/>, in the *Blower* and on Facebook. Contact Debbie LaFond.



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**Great Lakes Division**  
[www.greatlakes-scca.org](http://www.greatlakes-scca.org)  
[www.neohioscca.com](http://www.neohioscca.com)

## Neohio Region, SCCA Inc. Calendar of Events

May 3	Leroy Miata Challenge	CCPL
May 10	Time Trial	NLRC
May 18	Solo Event #1	IX
June 8	Solo Event #2	IX
June 21	Leroy Miata Challenge	CCPL
June 22	Solo School	CCPL
June 28/29	Time Trial and Race Experience Enduro	NLRC
July 11/13	Solo Nats	IX
July 26	Solo Event #3	IX
August 16	CAST in Stone Rally	
August 17	Solo Event #4	IX
September 7	Solo Event #5	IX
Sept. 28	Solo Event #6	IX
Sept 13/14	Divisional Champ Road Race	NLRC
Oct 10-12	USRRC	
Oct 25/26	NEO/MVR TT and Divisional Champ Road Race	NLRC
	Provisional: Dates for some of these events may change	

CCPL	Lake County Captains Parking Lot, Eastlake, OH
IX	IX Center
NLRC	Nelson Ledges Road Course, Garrettsville, OH
TBD	To Be Decided



**THANK YOU Carbotech Brakes!**  
 Longtime supporter of Neohio  
 Region and a major sponsor of our  
 events at Nelson Ledges!

## Neohio Region, SCCA

### Trustee Meeting Minutes March 4, 2025

**Members Present:** John McFarland ('25) Kurt Stevens ('24) Thomas Weiland ('24) Brenda Nick ('26) Ashley Medwig (24) Bill Crowe ('26) Joe Blaha (Tres.) Ray Glover (Rec. Sec.) Bob MacDonald (R.E.) Brandon Anderson (Asst. R.E.)

**Members Excused:** Matt Harbert ('25) Bill Snow (Mem. Sec.) **Members Absent:** Chase McIntyre ('26)

**Committee Members and Guests:** Jennifer Bradford, Duane Harrington, Jason Pokines, Alex Stone, Greg Lester, and Bryan Hall.

**Call to Order:** The Zoom meeting was called to order by R.E. Bob MacDonald at 7:32pm.

**Review of Prior Minutes:** Minutes from the February 4, 2025 Zoom meeting were emailed to the Board by Ray Glover for review prior to the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Tom Wieland, seconded by John McFarland, and approved without objection.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Blaha emailed his March Treasurer's Report to the Board prior the meeting and reported the following. The balance was down from last month but up from last year. A motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report was made by Kurt Stevens, seconded by Bill Crowe, and approved without objection.

**Membership:** Bob MacDonald reported the following February statistics:

692 Members at the end of February. 11 Memberships lapsed. 10 New memberships.

3 Weekend memberships. Follow ups are in process.

#### **Officer and Committee Reports:**

**Regional Executive Report:** Bob MacDonald reported the following:

All trustees and officers should get their signed "Oath of Office" and "Conflict of Interest" forms in to the Recording Secretary (Ray Glover).

Some insurance correspondence is still going to Duane Harrington.

Updating of the Region's inventory is still ongoing.

A dozen or so members of Neohio were at the Great Lakes Division Conference.

**Street Survival:** Bryan Hall reported the following:

It will be April 6, 2025 at Drive Team in Peninsula. There are ten registrations so far.

Need coaches.

**Road Racing:** Bob MacDonald reported the following:

The June race experience sups are in the works – to be similar to Pitt Race's the week before.

For the September race both Formula First and American Sedan groups have said they will be there.

Dave Lancaster is talking to potential sponsors.

**Time Trial:** Brandon Anderson reported the following:

The May 10, 2025 sups are done. The schedule is also complete. To be titled "Moms Need Speed Too".

Atomic Autosport is going to be the title sponsor.

**Continued on next page**

The June Time Attack sups are in the works.

Looking to expand Time Trials into a Great Lakes Division championship.

May possibly add an open wheel session to the June event if there is enough interest.

**Solo:** Jason Pokines reported the following:

The new laptops have been purchased and the Pronto software installed.

All events are open on MSR.

Trailer maintenance day to be April 12, 2025 at Leroy Engineering.

**Rallycross:** Alex Stone reported the following:

Still in negotiations with Vail Resorts about using the Boston mills/Brandywine lot.

Still discussing with Nelson Ledges also.

**Road Rally:** Greg Lester reported the following: He had productive meetings with National regarding the October USRRC.

**Communications/Website:** Jennifer Bradford reported the following:

No big updates at this time.

Working on "Meet the Team Tuesday" every two weeks.

**Social Events:** Bill Crowe reported the following:

March 15, 2025 is Karting at High Voltage. Three registered so far.

Possible social event after "A Day of Motorsports" if it's OK with Reed Kryder as he has a track day that afternoon. We would use the same tent from "A Day of Motorsports".

**A Day of Motorsports:** Bob MacDonald reported the following:

Five volunteers and 33 attendees registered so far.

Attendees are to purchase their own lunch but will receive free gift.

Lunch will be provided to the workers.

There will be tent for the specialties to use for their presentations.

Looking at offering a discounted memberships to attendees who sign up that day (discount to be Neohio's portion of the normal fee).

**Hall of Fame:** Bob MacDonald reported the following:

There was a nice presentation at the Awards Celebration.

It was reminded that the Hall of Fame's money is to be separate from Neohio's.

Joe Blaha added that the Jaws of Life Fund is also to be dedicated separate monies.

R.E. Bob MacDonald instructed the Treasurer to keep separate accountings for Neohio, Jaws of Life, and the Hall of Fame.

Bill Crowe made a motion for Neohio to cover the \$153.53 shortfall in the Hall of Fame Fund, seconded by Brenda Nick, and approved without objection.

**Old Business:**

There were 85 registered attendees and five walk-ins for the Awards Celebration. It should be \$100-\$150 within the breakeven point.

Bob MacDonald purchased the Tech stickers, etc. He is distributing them to the proper parties.

Joe Blaha is still looking into opening a savings account for the region.

*Continued on page 8*

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Notes from the Director's Chair  
Area 4 Director Update April 2025

Spring is rearing its head which means it's time for regions to work on events for the summer competition season. I have a trip to KC this month and I'm off to MidOhio for the OVR HST in May.

I want to start this month's update by addressing the 800 pound gorilla in the room. On 3/14, a major social media frenzy erupted over some proposed, corrected language in the GCR that was published in FasTrack. While the language in the revised edition was corrected grammatically, a firestorm ignited over some pronouns used in the text. A Chair of the CRB, I can assure everyone that no ill intent was meant. We listened to the feedback, recognized the error and are already working on revising the GCR and all other SCCA rules books to use more inclusive and welcoming terminology. Please bear with us as this will take some time to get it right.

Here's what I did since my last report.....

Video Conference Meetings:

Club Racing Board (CRB) (3/4): We discussed a wide variety of topics including GT3 and STU data collection, tire marking, reginal classes, SM and SMX tires, and the Rush sports racer. We also worked on the agenda of the face to face meeting out in Kansas City (4/11, 4/12). The results of all of the CRB rules changes can be seen [here](#).

Electrified Vehicle Advisory Committee (EVAC) (3/12): Steve Hyatt was our special guest for this meeting. He is the SCCA's representative on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He is on a standing committee that reviews racetrack safety protocols. This group issues revised guidelines every few years and they are currently working on the 2028 version. We agreed to stay in touch as each group could benefit from the sharing of language for their respective committees. We also reviewed the GCR language concerning SCREV. We also discussed Appendix K from the Solo rules.

Runoffs Tech Staff (3/18): As CRB Chair, I was invited to the quarterly meeting of the Runoffs Technical Staff group. This was made up of various tech inspectors that will attend the Runoffs, the Technical Staff folks and others who were involved with inspecting cars at the Runoffs. As it is early in the season, there wasn't too much to discuss as very few trends have emerged from the early season races. I updated them about items on the CRB agenda that had import to them.



Continued from previous page

Board of Directors (3/24): The new IT Director was introduced to us. His name is Kevin Dayo. Speaking of replacements, Justin Hawkins will be replacing Jeff Dahnert in a few weeks. They'll overlap while the annual audit is performed. Both of these fellows will be great additions to the management team out in Topeka. As to the financials, we are a bit behind the curve so far but its early and we have plenty of time to catch up. We went into Executive Session to hear about the firestorm that erupted on 3/14. Kristen Poole gave us details about the number of Facebook posts, views, traffic, etc. As I am not a Facebook guy, I was appalled to see what some people wrote about the situation. She showed some screenshots of posts and it made me very angry. As I stated above, we are working tirelessly on solving this issue and ask for your patience as we work through this.

SCCA Events:

None

Be sure and visit the [GLDiv website](#) for information about all of the SCCA programs within the division. We have schedules, official's contact info, standings, etc. for all the SCCA programs.

Please take a few minutes and make sure your contact information is accurate in the SCCA database. It's important to have the correct information there so the club knows how to contact you. Log in to your [my.scca.com](http://my.scca.com) page and check.

There is a new path to getting your annual waiver. You can now get it through the Member Account Portal (MAP). Follow this [link](#) to get the instructions. There is also a story about the program [here](#). I've done it and it only takes a couple of minutes. Be prepared to upload a headshot picture of yourself.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have about any facet of the GLDiv. I want you to make the most of your membership and I will help out in any way possible to make that happen.

*Dayle Frame*



Thanks to our sponsor Summit  
Racing for their generous  
support of all Neohio  
Programs and Activities!



## *Trustee Meeting Minutes continued from page 5*

### **New Business:**

Brenda Nick asked for permission to use the Neohio timing and scoring equipment at the Pitt vintage race and the MVR Divisional at Nelson Ledges. So moved by Taylor Allen, seconded by Tom Wieland, and approved without objection.

It was announced that Jon Beck, a long time Neohio member, recently passed away.

Brandon Anderson requested a budget of \$15,000 for the one-day May Time Trial noting that 52 cars are needed to break even. Bill Crowe moved to approve a budget of \$15,000 for the May Time Trial, seconded by Tom Wieland, and approved without objection.

Duane Harrington noted that Neohio merchandise can supposedly be purchased through National (SCCAGear.com).

Bill Crowe stated a need for secure storage at Nelson Ledges for things like radios, flags, etc. Bob MacDonald to discuss with Dave Lancaster.

At the Divisional Conference Brandon Anderson learned about a recruiting kit for sale for \$300 that includes banners, QR code, etc. and that it would be good to have for the "A Day of Motorsports". Brandon Anderson moved to approve a budget of \$350 to purchase the recruiting kit, seconded by Kurt Stevens, and approved without objection.

Tom Wieland questioned if the region's sponsors' banners are displayed at our events? Split banner costs? Do the sponsors have their own banners?

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by John McFarland, seconded by Bill Crowe, meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Next trustee's meeting will be April 1, 2025 via Zoom at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Glover, Recording Secretary



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## Preliminary 2025 GLD Rally Series Schedule:

### Twilight Tour Rally, Saturday, May 3, 2025:

The next event in the 2025 SCCA Great Lakes Division Rally Championship series is Detroit Region's **Twilight Tour Rally** on Saturday, May 3, 2025. More information is available, and registration is open on [motorsportreg.com](http://motorsportreg.com) (MSR).

### 2025 GLD Rally Series Schedule:

The following rallies remain on the 2025 SCCA GLD Rally Championship series calendar:

May 3 - **Twilight Tour**, Chelsea, MI, Detroit Region, SCCA.

August 16 - **CAST In Stone**, Canton, OH. Neohio Region, SCCA.

September 5 - **Friday Press On Regardless** (FPOR), Gaylord, MI. Detroit Region, SCCA (More information, and registration here: [msreg.com/POR-2025](http://msreg.com/POR-2025) )

September 6 - **Saturday Press On Regardless** (SPOR), Gaylord, MI. Detroit Region, SCCA.

October 10 - **Johnny Appleseed**, Canton, OH, Neohio Region, SCCA (USRRC)

October 11 - **Ohio Milk Run**, Marietta, OH, Neohio Region, SCCA (USRRC)

Look for date changes, and for other rallies to be added to the schedule soon. Please direct inquiries about the series to GLD Rally Steward Rob Moran ([RTMoran2008@yahoo.com](mailto:RTMoran2008@yahoo.com)).

### 2025 SCCA US Road Rally Challenge (USRRC), October 10-12, 2025

After being asked once again to seriously consider hosting the SCCA US Road Rally Challenge, Neohio Region has agreed to present three rallies over three consecutive days in October. Here are the (very preliminary) concepts for these rallies:

- 1) Friday, October 10 - **Johnny Appleseed**, Canton, Ohio. Absolutely straightforward afternoon/evening TSD rally heading southeast through Ohio's Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, and on south through the Appalachian foothills to an overnight halt in/near Marietta, Ohio. The Johnny Appleseed name is a legacy from a National Rally first hosted by Neohio Region in the 1950's. The rally has changed form over the decades, but the name endures.
- 2) Saturday, October 11 - **Ohio Milk Run**, Marietta, Ohio. Absolutely straightforward TSD rally running northbound, and parallel to, but slightly west of Friday's route. The Milk Run name is an homage to an old motorcycle enduro that ran in the same area.
- 3) Sunday, October 12 - **Cleveland Alley Rallye**, Cleveland, Ohio. The Alley Rallye will be a resurrection of a once hugely popular annual event organized by the now-defunct Cleveland Sport Car Club, starting in the 1950's. It is a lighthearted tour that will introduce participants to the full spectrum of Cleveland's urban landscape: the post-industrial "Flats", distinct ethnic neighborhoods, grids of narrow brick streets separating century-old warehouses, mazes of alleys and loading docks beneath theaters and office towers, and breathtaking views of the mighty Cuyahoga River (yes, THAT Cuyahoga - the one that burned!).

Mark your calendars now.

**Rally equipment For Sale/Wanted:**1) **Wanted:** Timewise 798A rally computer.2) **Wanted:** 2 Hella Rallye 2000

"Euro" (driving) beam lens/reflector assemblies (new or good used condition).- contact Greg Lester

([wgregorylester@gmail.com](mailto:wgregorylester@gmail.com) or phone 330.256.6531)**For Sale:** Timewise 797A rally computer. Contact Mark Henderson, [markdhenderson73@gmail.com](mailto:markdhenderson73@gmail.com)

*Minutes continued from page 8*

Bill Crowe stated a need for secure storage at Nelson Ledges for things like radios, flags, etc. Bob MacDonald to 8 with Dave Lancaster.

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Brandon Anderson moved to approve a budget of \$350 to purchase the recruiting kit, seconded by Kurt Stevens, and approved without objection.

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Next trustee’s meeting will be April 1, 2025 via Zoom at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Glover, Recording Secretary

## **CORRECTION FROM THE MARCH ISSUE**

**The March issue of the newsletter included a photo titled “A nighttime photo from one of the Longest Day races at Nelson Ledges.” It was in fact an image from a ChampCar 24 hour race. Photo credit to Gary Whipple.**

*REport continued from page 1*

This past Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our third annual **Day of Motorsports** at Nelson Ledges. I hope you were there, but if you weren’t here’s what you missed. Between 200 and 300 participants showed up (in spite of poor weather predictions) to learn more about our club and the various programs and volunteering opportunities SCCA offers. They heard presentations, met drivers and saw cars from all five programs, they talked to our volunteer specialty leaders to better understand how they can get involved that way. They also got to enjoy track rides with various experienced competitors, meet and talk to vendors and sponsors who also contributed about \$2,500 worth of merchandise for our Prize drawing. It was an outstanding day (in spite of a brief shower) and we hope to see many of the first time guests back at one of our events in some capacity soon. Thanks to the many volunteers in the region who helped make this event successful!

**Annual Tech Day** also took place during the Day of Motorsports again this year. Thanks to our intrepid Tech team for performing Annual inspections on quite a few of our competition vehicles while meeting new people and answering questions about their specialty.

In this issue we have published an updated view of the year ahead on page 12. Items highlighted in BLUE are confirmed NEO-HIO Region events. Items highlighted in GREEN are confirmed to the best of our knowledge.

Our sponsorship program continues to grow. This is important because these businesses support our region, making events more robust and affordable. Please look for our sponsors and advertisers throughout the Blower and continue to support them so they continue to help us.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

---

Two Photos from the Nelson Ledges Work Day April 12th from Kurt Stevens



Thank you Leroy Engineering for your support of NEOHIO Solo!



## NEOHIO 2025 Area Event Schedule

DATE \$ for 2025	TE/TT & DRIVER'S SCHOOL	DIVISIONALS	MAJORS & SUPER TOURS	SCCA PRO or OTHER EVENTS	Rally/RallyX	Solo
April 26-27	DS-WHRRRI @ WAT			FPromo @ MO		
May 3-4	SCR TT @ PIRC (Fri 5/2)		SCR-M @ PIRC	MVR Street Survival (5/4)		Eastlake SOLO (LMC) May 3
May 10-11 (Mother's Day)	NEO TT @ NL (Sat 5/10)					
May 17-18	TTnT @ NCM		OVR-ST @ MO	ARPCA @ NL		IX SOLO #1 May 18
May 24-25 (Memorial Day)		DET - D-C @ WAT		Champ @ WGI		
May 31-June 1	PIRC Driver's School & TT - T			FPromo @ PIRC		
June 7-8			June Sprints ST @ RA	IMSA @ MO		IX Solo #2 June 8
June 14-15 (Father's Day)	TTnT @ CMP	WMR-D-C @ GRA		Extreme Experience @ NL		
June 21-22			SBR-M @ GM	SVRA & TA @ MO IMSA @ WGI		Eastlake SOLO (LMC) (6/21) & SOLO School (6/22)
June 28-29	NEO - TT @ NL + Race Experience Enduro		Super Tour @ WG			
July 5-6				IndyCar @ MO USF Pro @ MO		
July 12-13	CINCI-TT @ MO (Fri 7/11)	CINCI-D-C @ MO		Pitt Vintage GP @ PIRC FPromo @ WGI		SOLO NATS July 11-13
July 19-20	TTnT @ Pocono DS/CRE - SBR @ GM	SBR-D-C @ GM		PVGP @ Schenley Park DART KART @ NL		
July 26-27		MVR-D @ NL		AMA Vintage Bikes @ MO		IX Solo #3 July 26
August 2-3	TTnT @ Autobahn					
August 9-10	OVR-TT - (Fri 8/8)	OVR-D-C @ MO		NASCAR @ WGI		
August 16-17				MotoAmerica @ MO	CAST In Stone (8/16)	IX Solo #4 Aug 17
August 23-24	SCR TT @ PIRC (Fri 8/22)	SCR D @ PIRC SCCA	WMR - M @ GRA			
Sept 6-7				CHAMP - MO Vintage bikes @ NL		IX Solo #5 Sept 7
Sept 13-14	FLR TT @ WGI (9/13)	NEO-D-C @ NL		Fun One D @ WGI		
Sept 20-21	TTN @ PIRC (18-21)			NORPCA @ MO		
Sept 27-28						Eastlake SOLO (LMC) (9/27) IX Solo #6 (9/28)
Oct 4-5	2025 RUNOFFS @ Road America (Sept 29 - Oct 5)			CHAMP - PittRace		
Oct 11-12	OVR-TT - (Fri 10/10)	OVR-D-C @ MO			USRR: JAR (10/10) OMR (10/11) Alley Rally (10/12)	
Oct 18-19						
Oct 25-26	NEO/MVR TT/CRE @ NL	NEO/MVR Div @ NL-D-C				
<b>LEGEND:</b>						
T=Tentative	R=Restricted	D=Double	M=Major	RX=RallyCross	Confirmed 2025 Dates	
GM= GingerMan	GRA=Grattan	C=Champ Series Event		DS=Drivers School	NEOHIO Events 2025	
NL=Nelson Ledges	MO=Mid Ohio	MIS=Mich Intl Speedway	WAT=Waterford Hills	ST= Super Tour		LMC= Leroy Mists Challenge
PIRC = Pittsburgh International Race Complex		WGI=Watkins Glen	BHF=Blackhawk Farms	TE - Track Event		JAR = Johnny Appleseed Rally
NCM= National Corvette Museum MS Park		PP=Putnam Park	RA=Road America	TT - Time Trial		OMR = Ohio Milk Run Rally



## Thank You Atomic Autosports for Supporting the NEOHIO Time Trials!



### Tire Rack Street Survival® Returns to NEOHIO!

After a five year hiatus, NEOHIO Region, SCCA is back in the Tire Rack Street Survival business. Event Lead Bryan Hall has been steadfast in his commitment to resurrect this program in our region. His patience and persistence finally paid off on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

After a few prior endeavors to come up with a suitable venue, member Lisa Hinkle connected us with owner Drew Salyer of Drive Team, Inc. in Peninsula on Old Rt. 8. The facility was about as perfect as one could imagine and Drew and Lisa were wonderful hosts.

Today 13 students are more skilled and more aware as drivers thanks to the efforts of the 13 volunteers who came out to make the program work. Check out the pictures to see what the kids experienced. Thanks to all our volunteers for reducing the potential for traffic injuries and fatalities and thanks to our hosts for making this possible.

**Photos begin below, continued on page 15.**





# RACING INTO THE TWILIGHT YEARS

## A story about longtime member Gary David

After a 10-year break from the track, Gary David is again strapping on his helmet and revving his engines. But not for fun.

Gary David '69 will tell you that racing is not really fun. It's too expensive and dangerous to call it that. At his age, 76, it's even a little outrageous. The stress and strain of driving a small car 120 mph around a racetrack tests his mettle and his endurance.

But when he crosses the finish line in a thunderous blur, having run a good race, the sense of elation is all-fulfilling.

"It's the hardest thing I've ever done and the most satisfying," he says matter of factly. "Even if I don't win, if I know I've done good, it's just great.

"But it's not fun," he adds. "It's a lot of work."

David returned to racing in 2023, after a 10 year hiatus brought on by prostate cancer and, well, common sense. His neck is arthritic. His reflexes have slowed. Social Security does not begin to cover the cost of racing tires.

Nevertheless, he got behind the wheel of his MG Midget at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in July of 2023. With a new helmet on his head and two lidocaine patches on his neck, he tore around the track fast enough for second place in his class.

Then, in September, at Nelson Ledges Road Course east of Cleveland, he took the checkered flag. It had been a long time.

"I can't run with the fast people like I used to," he said. "But I wanted to see if I could still do it, and I could."

A retired entrepreneur and software engineer, David is aided in his racing pursuits by an understanding wife, Sandy—a Lotus car enthusiast—and a long history in the amateur end of the sport.

He began with road rallies in high school and joined the motorsports club at Case Institute of Technology, where he studied software engineering before there was a degree. After graduation came racing school for his competition license and years on the circuit. He flipped cars, crushed a hand, but always got back behind the wheel, ascending to top-tier events. In 1986, he placed third in the national championships.

Along with the driving, he loved the tinkering.

"I'm an engineer," he said. "Instead of trying to adjust myself to the car, I could adjust the car to me."

He started his company, GD Computer Contracting Inc, in 1990 in suburban Cleveland and designed software for the likes of Ford, Siemens and LL Bean, while racing on weekends. He ran every year until 2013, when two engines failed in consecutive races "and I kind of shoved everything to a corner of the garage" and quit the game.

Then, in 2022, he sought one more run. "The feeling, it never really left me."

A friend's shop in Akron recommissioned his car: new brakes, hydraulics and tires. His old crew chief flew back from Florida to help.

He spun out on the technically challenging Mid-Ohio track but recovered to finish second. Then he bested the field at Nelson Ledges, where he had met his wife 40 years before.

He had done it. It was his last hurrah.

Maybe.

"I mean, the car's sitting here," he said. "As long as I have a car and a racing suit and a helmet, I'm a racecar driver."



Gary David is strapped in and ready to go.



His wife Sandy at his side, Gary David wears a First Place medal at Nelson Ledges Road Course.

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— Gary David '69



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**Another Photo from our Street Survival Event**







## Some Photos from the Day of Motorsports Event







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