



The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

Volume 65, Issue 8

August 2018

The Starting Line

REport by Duane Harrington, Assistant RE

Upcoming Events

Trustee Meeting

September 4



Solo Events

September 9 & 30



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Maddie has some personal business to take care of this month and as Assistant RE, asked me to fill in for her, so here we go.

On Tuesday, August 7, the Region held a picnic for membership at Nelson Ledges. I, as well as Maddie, would like to thank all that were involved pulling this together. The turnout was poor, but those that were there had a good time. This was held at the same time as Mahoning Valley Region's picnic. There was food and fellowship and a lot of bench racing and swapping of racing lies.

One item of note was information on the direction of Nelson Ledges Road Course. Fred Wolf told us the on going plans for the track. Things are coming together a little slow as Brian, the track manager, wants to do it right. Some of the items that needed to be done before the "Official" track inspection have to be done when the track is closed for a period. This is hard to do and still have an income coming in.

Starting in September and continuing into October are nominations for Officers and Trustees. This includes Regional Executive, Assistant Regional Executive, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and three Trustees. The Election will be held

in November with both mail in Ballot and on-line voting. Time and place to be in next month's *Blower*.

Qualifications for these positions include having Neohio Region as region of record in the Sports Car Club of America and a genuine interest in improving YOUR club. How much time does it take? Except for the Treasurer and Secretary, just your attendance at one meeting a month. The RE, as club's representative, has a little more to do.

If you or someone you know would like to run for one of the positions, let a Board Member know. Better yet, come to a meeting in September or October to learn more about it. A letter of intent must be on file with the club Secretary before your nomination can be excepted.

Now a Race report from the Last Majors in the Division. I was at Grattan over the weekend and the turnout was light. As usual, the only class that had a significant showing was the SM, Spec Miata. With the Runoffs in California this year, a lot of drivers are saving their money. The Runoffs return to the east in 2019 at VIR and in 2020 at Road America. I am looking forward to both of these events.



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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 | July 3, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob MacDonald, Michael Oswald, Joe Blaha, Jim Green, Jeff Blumenthal, Bob Nick, Jim Pracker, Ray Glover, Tara Oram, Madeline Oswald, Dave Lancaster, Jason Pokines

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Bill Moore

GUESTS: Welcome to all!

Meeting called to order by Maddie at 7pm.

Minutes presented from past meetings for approval. MOTION to accept the minutes as presented. (MacDonald/Oram) Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MOTION to accept report as presented. (Oram/Nick) – Approved.

REPORTS & COMMITTEE REVIEWS

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE:

- The recent member survey is still being evaluated. Thanks for all the feedback.
- November Election Notice must be done for publication at the September meeting.
- Constitution review will continue in the group meeting.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE: No report

MEMBERSHIP:

- 508 members. 10 lapsed/8 new

SOLO:

- Second and third events are completed.
- We will be working with the Lotus Group to provide services during our combined event on 8/12. The agreement will be reviewed and approved.
- New timing system has been ordered.

RALLY: No report

STREET SURVIVAL:

- We have received payment from National for our Spring event.
- Planning for the October event is underway.

HALL OF FAME: No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nelson Ledges Council has been activated. Bob MacDonald and Bill Stewart are involved. Meeting will be held in July. We want to create a cooperative relationship with surrounding regions and Nelson management. The Council will be “the voice” for these regions in communication with Nelson management. Neohio, with our geographic jurisdiction, retains the right to approve use by other Regions.

NEW BUSINESS:

- MVR August meeting will be a cookout/social at Nelson Ledges. This is to encourage member participation and an opportunity to see firsthand how the track is progressing. Discussion about having the August Neohio meeting at Nelson resulted in a motion.
- MOTION: Neohio to hold Aug '18 monthly meeting at Nelson Ledges and encourage local member participation. (Pracker/Bob Nick) APPROVED.
- MOTION: Request budget of \$300 for food and other essentials. (MacDonald/Oram) APPROVED.

Next Meeting: August 7, 2018 at Nelson Ledges Race Track.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:03 pm. (Blaha/Oram) – Approved.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Blumenthal

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 13 Lotus Club Track Day @ Nelson	August 14	August 15	August 16	August 17	August 18	August 19
August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23	August 24	August 25	August 26
August 27	August 28	August 29	August 30	August 31	September 1	September 2
September 3 Labor Day	September 4 7 P Trustee Meeting @ Winking Lizard Bedford Hts.	September 5	September 6	September 7	September 8 Press On Regardless (POR), Indian River, MI	September 9 Solo Points Event - Eastlake
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

Mazda Spec Miata Penske Shocks Upgrade on Way to NASA & SCCA

IRVINE, Calif. (Aug. 14, 2018) -- Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, Mazda's Spec Miata (SM) has grown to become one of the most popular and competitive classes within the Sports Car Club of America and National Auto Sport Association. The low-cost, high-excitement platform has drawn thousands of racers, and that will continue with today's announcement that Mazda Motorsports and Penske Racing Shocks have teamed up to produce a new, spec shock package to enhance the SM racing experience in the coming seasons.

In a recent dry- and wet-weather session at Carolina Motorsports Park, pro drivers Joel Miller, John Dean and Randy Pobst tested Penske's race-engineered shocks head-to-head with offerings from several other brands over four days. Four different versions of the Mazda Miata were tested,

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.

and runs were made on Toyo and Hoosier tires. Test drivers didn't shy away from curbing, running the cars to simulate qualifying and long runs. In all, 72 different combinations of driver, damper and tires were tested.

Results show the new Penske shocks to be similar in qualifying lap times compared with shocks currently used by the SM field. But on overall pace, particularly starting on the fifth lap, the Penske product showed brilliance. And on 30-minute to hour-long runs, where the current spec's lap times slowed by three-plus seconds on the high-wear track surface, the Penskes never fell off to even two seconds compared to qualifying lap times. An in-depth look at the test findings is available at the Mazda Motorsports website.

"The Penske Racing Shocks package is a major step forward for Spec Miata, upgrading the cars from an underdamped street shock to an uncompromised race piece intended solely for the track," Pobst said after testing. "The shocks allowed the tires to maintain more grip because the suspension worked properly, rather than constantly crashing down on the bump rubbers. With every car, driver, tire and track condition, the Penske provided superior control."

Miller and Dean added that the Penske shocks had a ride quality that was very, very good. The damper had great compliance and soaked up exit curbing, and did not skip the car. Tire life had a predictable, linear and subtle fall-

off because of good compliance. Tires also had a large window of operation and never gave a knife-edge feeling at stint's end.

Josh Smith, Mazda Motorsports Technical Specialist, noted that the "street shock" currently used in SM is not entirely ideal for racing. The off-the-shelf shock, while cost-effective, was not initially designed to handle the spring rate on race cars and sometimes has trouble "dampening" movement. This causes the suspension to bottom out, which impacts wear-and-tear on other components of the car, including tires, hubs, bearings and subframes.

"The Spec Miata community will receive tremendous value from the new Penske shock in terms of drivability, consistency, improved areas of compliance, longevity, and great long-term value for the cost," said David Cook, Business Development Manager for Mazda Motorsports. "This new shock doesn't raise the performance of any single SM generation car over another. What it does accomplish is to enhance the SM platform as a whole, and bring in a shock partner interested in servicing customers with trackside support and contingency awards."

According to Aaron Lambert, Penske Racing Shocks Director of Competition, another round of testing and honing of the new shocks will be conducted next month. But ultimately, Penske Racing Shocks will provide an offering that competitors -- novice

Continued on page 7.

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 9, 2018	Points Event	Eastlake
September 30, 2018	Points Event	Eastlake
October 21, 2018	Points Event (Season Finale!)	Eastlake

GSD Rally Schedule

September 8	Press On Regardless (POR) , Indian River, MI (Detroit Region)
September 29	Clare Color Tour , Clare, MI (Detroit Region)
October 13	Johnny Appleseed , Zoar, OH (Neohio Region)
November 4	Lake Erie Covered Bridges , Conneaut, OH (Misery Bay Region)
November 17	Pavement Ends , S. Lyon, MI (Detroit Region)

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SCCA Pro Announces Title Deal with Amethyst Beverage

Condensed - LEXINGTON, Ohio (Aug. 10, 2018) A multi-year series title sponsorship was announced today by SCCA Pro Racing and Amethyst Beverage Company for the naming rights to the new F3 Americas Championship Powered by Honda regional single-seater, single-chassis championship and as the associate sponsor to highly successful Formula 4 United States Championship Powered by Honda series.

Founded by Jeff Flasco, Ron Broussard and Gregg Marte less than a year ago, Amethyst Beverage is the newest specialty health beverage, taking water to the next level. Amethyst, with its trade-secret formula, was designed to rehydrate the body up 37 percent faster with the addition of 70 ionic minerals, fulvic acid and a 9.5+ alkaline.

"We are very excited to represent Amethyst Beverage. Our long-term partnership will enable SCCA Pro Racing and our partners, HPD, Onroak and Pirelli to ensure our drivers a cost-effective path in which they can achieve their racing goals," said SCCA Pro Racing Vice President Steve Oseth. "I think Amethyst Beverage's forward-looking water products dovetail perfectly with our state-of-the-art F3 Americas chassis and engine combination which represent the latest in technology from our partners, Onroak and Honda."

Amethyst Beverage CEO Flasco owns ITG Motorsports which operates Larry Dixon's NHRA Top

Fuel Dragster. Combined, Flasco and Marte have more than 20 years of experience in the racing industry.

The Reno-based beverage company also introduced an innovative tech company, Amethyst Mobile. Partnering with Tilted Globe Technology, the pair will create an innovative motorsports app for an enhanced F4 U.S. and F3 Americas fan experience starting in 2019.

Continued from page 5.

or pro -- can drive consistently. With the new shock comes a new upper mount that uses a spherical bearing and a new bump stop designed specifically for the application. Issues caused by riding on bump stops will be eliminated, and stress to other parts minimized so a race car's longevity can be maximized.

The new shock price will be set at \$198.74 apiece, with the complete upper mount/bump stop kit retailing at \$249.90. Parts will be available exclusively through Mazda Motorsports with a total cost for conversion; including four shocks, top mount, bump stops and lower spherical mounts for less than \$1,050. Unlike the current Spec Miata shock, the Penske will be tamper-proof, and rebuildable through Penske at \$100/shock. It is recommended that shocks be inspected by Penske after 100 hours of track use to determine whether a rebuild would be valuable.

"Penske Racing Shocks is the world leader in suspension technology and proud to be the majority supplier in F1, NASCAR, IndyCar,

"We want to give the fans a more real-time experience," Flasco continued. "Titled Globe Technology will take SCCA Pro Racing to the next level with its online and mobile fan interaction. The app will give fans more access to drivers, results, streaming, VR and video. We look forward to sharing this groundbreaking technology with SCCA Pro Racing and its fans."

IMSA DPi, NHRA Pro Stock, and now Spec Miata," Lambert said. "With such a rigorous schedule, high volume of competitors and demand for equality, the Spec Miata series is a perfect platform to show off performance, reliability and repeatability, which is why Penske Racing Shocks is honored to be part of this racing class."

Both NASA and SCCA have approved the new Penske shock for SM competition beginning Jan. 1, 2019. It is anticipated the new shocks will be available starting November 2018 through Mazda Motorsports. The new shocks will not be immediately required for NASA or SCCA competition. Both sanctioning bodies will communicate with competitors at a later date regarding a sunset timeline for the shock package currently in use. For the SCCA, both the current Bilstein and new Penske shock packages will be eligible in 2019, with the Penske shocks mandatory for the 2019 SCCA Runoffs. The 2020 SCCA U.S. Majors Tour program will follow suit in requiring the Penske package, with continued eligibility for the Bilstein shock at the Regional level.



The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

August 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

2006, Mazda MX5, GT, 31,000 miles. \$19,000 obo. 2 cars for 1 price! One of a kind Supercharged MX5. Cruise with top down, or stomp on gas pedal and enjoy one FAST track car.

Red paint, black leather interior, soft top in excellent condition.

Stored winters, rarely sees wet roads. 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 and injectors; New set of OEM coil packs; GWR stainless header, resonator, exhaust and 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, and brake pads.

All upgrades and most service done by certified mechanic and expert on supercharged NC Miata. He has built 15-20 of these "pocket rockets".***

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

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