



The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

Volume 65, Issue 1

January 2018

The Starting Line

REport by Kerry Klotzman

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCCA National Convention

January 18-21, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Convention Early Registration
Extended to January 9

Neohio Banquet

February 17, 2018 at Pine
Ridge Country Club

See page 5 for information.

NEOHIO CELEBRATES 65th Anniversary!

- Did you know Neohio was born when SCCA had just started airport racing?
- Did you know Neohio hosted a National Convention in 1958?

Come to the Annual Banquet on Feb. 17th to learn more about Neohio's rich history and be a part of the celebration! See information about registering for the banquet in this issue.

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Happy New Year to all!

We are in the throes of an old fashioned Winter Arctic blast. Those who wished for a white Christmas sure got their desires granted, but enough already!

I hope that everybody is staying warm and got everything that they wanted in the way of equipment for their car's needs. Time to fire up the heat in the garage and get wrenching because Spring is right around the corner.

The SCCA National Convention is coming up quickly, January 18-21. The early registration deadline has been extended until January 9, so there is still time to register at only \$275 per attendee. Register today at <https://www.scca.com/pages/nationalconvention>. See you there!

The Board of Trustees has discussed what it would take to move the Annual meeting away from the week of Thanksgiving in order to make it more likely to get a better turnout and will be getting that information out to the membership in order to make the necessary change to our Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations in the near future.

I was disappointed to get word from Gabe Gutierrez (Trustee '19) that he needed to resign his position due to changes in work load and travel schedule. The good news is that

Michael Oswald is willing to step up and fill that position and will keep our board running at full power. Thank you Michael, welcome aboard. I want to thank Gabe for his contributions in the past and look forward to his being able to be active in the club when he can.

We have received a draft of the contract for Nelson Ledges for our June 2018 Double Regional. The Competition Committee will be meeting with the track owner and manager this weekend to work out the details and move on to the next stages of planning for the inaugural Neohio race on the new surface. Please see the open positions on page 2 and consider that if you have an interest in one of these posts, and better yet some experience or training, that you let Debbie LaFond or myself know so that we can fill out the required ranks to hold this event.

I invite you to join us at next month's meeting on February 6 to find out more about the unfolding plans for the 2018 racing season. Congratulations to Eric Prill on his award, see page 6.

See page 5 for Annual Banquet meal choices, prices, and location. Make plans, put it on your calendar and send in your reservation to attend.

Until then, stay warm and be safe.

Kerry



R.E. & Club Office

Kerry Klotzman
(216) 469-0190
regexec@neohioscca.com

Assistant R.E.

Maddie Oswalt
asstregexec@neohioscca.com

Treasurer

Joe Blaha
334 Keyser Pkwy.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223
treasurer@neohioscca.com

Recording Secretary

Jeff Blumenthal
(216) 469-0341
recorder@neohioscca.com

Membership Secretary

Tara Oram
216-272-2487
membership@neohioscca.com

Board (Trustees + Officers)

board@neohioscca.com

Trustees

trustees@neohioscca.com
Dave Lancaster, '18
(440) 796-8214
dave.lancaster@tennantco.com
Bob MacDonald '18
(216) 509-6671
bob@
impactcommunications.com

Jason Pokines '18
(330) 475-2559
jasonpokines@gmail.com

Michael Oswalt '19
mao47@case.edu

Bill Moore '19
440-591-0989
williamjmoore33@gmail.com

Maddie Oswalt '19
mbk44@case.edu

Ray Glover '20

Bob Nick '20
(440) 789-8995
rhnick38@gmail.com

Jim Pracker '20
(440) 338-1222
1amps@windstream.net

Specialty Chiefs

Novice Licenses

Jim Pracker
(440) 338-1222
1amps@windstream.net

Registrar & Pointskeeper

Dorothy Harrington
216-390-2856
doubledlh@hotmail.com

Tech Inspection

Maurice LaFond
440-946-2207
mrl1070@yahoo.com

Timing & Scoring

Brenda Nick
brenda.j.nick@gmail.com

Sound Control

OPEN

Pits

Bill Stewart
814-882-7225
bstewart@sccaonline.net

Grid

OPEN

Flagging & Communications

OPEN

Emergency Services

OPEN

Rally Chair

Greg Lester
rallychair@neohioscca.com

Solo Chair

Jason Pokines
(330) 475-2559
solochair@neohioscca.com

Rally Cross Chair

OPEN

Street Survival

Bob MacDonald
(216) 509-6671
survivalchair@neohioscca.com

Newsletter Editor

Laura O'Neill
330-467-4472
newsletter@neohioscca.com

Web Master

Duane Harrington
webmaster@neohioscca.com
http://neohioscca.com/

Track Contacts

Nelson Ledges Road Course

Fred Wolfe

Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

419-884-2295



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 Kerry Klotzman at regexec@neohioscca.com by the last day of each month.

Contributors:

Jeff Blumenthal,
Kerry Klotzman,
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 | November 14, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kerry Klotzman, Jim Pracker, Jason Pokines, Bob MacDonald, Madeline Oswald, Tara Oram, Jim Green, Dave Lancaster, Bill Moore, Jeff Blumenthal

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Joe Blaha, Bob Nick, Gabe Gutierrez

GUESTS: Welcome to all.

Meeting called to order by Jim Pracker at 7:04 pm.

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

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

REPORTS & COMMITTEE REVIEWS

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE:

- Elections tonight! Ballots still available. Congrats to Joe Blaha on his marriage.
- Reed Kryder is planning a book about Nelson Ledges. He is looking for contributions of stories via their website.
- VW FST group is planning a large turnout at the Nelson Ledges race in June 2018. They would like a separate race group.
- MOTION: Accept for consideration the FST request for a separate race group if car count is sufficient (Pokines/Klotzman) APPROVED

COMPETITION COMMITTEE:

- Competition meeting is December 9th. Contact Debbie LaFond for details if interested in participating.
- The Neohio Double Regional race at Nelson Ledges is June 9th (Sat/Sun).

MEMBERSHIP: 528 members (down 16 from Oct and up 5 from November)

SOLO: 10/22/17 event had 33 drivers

RALLY: Per Bill Stewart, Covered Bridge Rally had 13 entries (Geneva OH area) and approx. 12 for Johnny Appleseed Rally.

STREET SURVIVAL: Successful event at Lorain County Community College. We had 8 students and many positive responses. We will plan for a Spring 2018 event.

HALL OF FAME: Several Nominees have been submitted (3). Polestar will once again be our sponsor. Names of nominees will be announced next month.

OLD BUSINESS: SCCA has requested the Neohio Charter Renewal Application. Kerry will submit.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Banquet: MOTION: increase charge for Filet @ banquet by \$3 (Lancaster/Oram) APPROVED
- MOTION: \$4000 budget requested for Banquet (Lancaster/Pokines) APPROVED
- MVR has requested jurisdiction approval for a race at Nelson Ledges on 9/29/18-9/30/18. MOTION: (MacDonald/Oram) APPROVED.

Adjourned at 7:49 for Election processing. Resumed after votes were counted.

RESULTS: **ASST REG EXEC:** Madeline Oswald
Secretary: Jeff Blumenthal
Treasurer: Joe Blaha
Membership: Tara Oram
Trustees: Ray Glover, Bob Nick, Jim Pracker

Next Meeting December 5, 2017 at Winking Lizard in Bedford. MOTION to adjourn at 8.45 pm. (Lancaster/Oswalt) Approved.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Blumenthal

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 1 New Years Day	January 2 7 P Trustee Meeting @ Winking Lizard Bedford Hts.	January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6	January 7
January 8	January 9	January 10	January 11	January 12	January 13	January 14
January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18	January 19	January 20	January 21
			SCCA National Convention January 18-21, 2018 Las Vegas, NV			
January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25	January 26	January 27	January 28
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
February 5	February 6 7 P Trustee Meeting @ Winking Lizard Bedford Hts.	February 7	February 8	February 9	February 10	February 11
February 12	February 13	February 14 Valentine's Day	February 15	February 16	February 17 Neohio SCCA Banquet	February 18

Neohio SCCA Banquet



Date: Saturday, February 17, 2018

Cocktails: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Place: Pine Ridge Country Club

30601 Ridge Road

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

Invitations will **NOT** be mailed. RSVP no later than February 8, 2018.

Cash Bar Available.

Reservations must be paid in advance to keep our costs down.

Meals will not be available without a pre-paid reservation. No walk-ins.

Reservation for the **Neohio SCCA Banquet**.

Name: _____

E-mail Address for confirmation: _____

Dinner Selection:

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Cost</u>
_____	Filet Mignon @ \$38.00	\$ _____
_____	Baked Scrod in Lemon Butter @ \$35.00	\$ _____
_____	Chicken Marsala @ \$35.00	\$ _____
_____	Eggplant Parmesan @ 35.00	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

Make checks payable to "Neohio SCCA". Mail registration and payment to:

Neohio Banquet
Dorothy Harrington
340 Bellaire Rd.
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012-1503

Questions? Contact Dorothy Harrington: (216) 390-2856 or doubledlh@hotmail.com

Eric Prill Earns RRDC Mark Donohue Award

Eric Prill was named the 47th recipient of the RRDC Mark Donohue Award. This unique award is presented annually by the Road Racing Drivers Club for outstanding performance, competitiveness and sportsmanship during the amateur Sports Car Club of America® National Championship Runoffs®. It is voted on by RRDC members attending the Runoffs and/or viewing them live on the Internet.

In his 16th attempt to win the Runoffs, Prill pulled off his first victory driving his F Production MaxtonsFight.org/JPM/Hoosier Mazda Miata at the 54th SCCA® Runoffs at Indianapolis Motor Speedway (Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 2017). The win gave him his seventh Runoffs podium finish, along with four runner-up and two third-place finishes from 2009-2016.

Qualifying on the pole of the 42-car field, Prill was passed for the lead in turn 1, but quickly regained it and was ahead by five seconds when a full-course caution flag flew on lap 7 of 18. With nine-time national champion Joe Huffaker on his heels, Prill made a quick restart and held the lead. A second full-course caution flag came out on lap 12, and again his lead evaporated. Executing another excellent restart, he watched the second-to-fourth-place racers battle for the podium behind him as he cruised to a two-second win.

"Each time the yellow came out, I just thought 'are you kidding me?' But, I believed I had the pace to get away as long as I could be



Prill and his wife, Robin, head out for a victory lap at IMS during the 2017 Runoffs.

out front after the first couple of corners," recalled Prill. "Having a guy like Joe Huffaker on your bumper for three separate starts really puts the pressure on."

Prill, who completed SCCA Driver's School in 1995 and is a four-time SCCA U.S. Majors Tour Conference Champion, was thrilled with his first win. "When I started racing more than 20 years ago I never imagined that I might finish on the podium at the Runoffs, let alone win a National Championship," he said. "It was never my goal back then. Racing has always been about spending time with my family and my friends. Over the years, I went from being a guy that got lapped at the Runoffs to standing on the podium at Indy. The transformation was because of the advice and support of all those people."

The award is named for RRDC member and former president Mark Donohue, who won his first National Championship in the SCCA E Production class in 1961, and then went on to become one

of the U.S.A.'s greatest racing drivers. He won the Indy 500, the Can-Am Championship, three Trans-Am Championships, and the IROC Championship.

"I've spent my entire life around racing, and knew about Mark Donohue at a young age," Prill added. "My dad actually worked for American Motors in the 1970s, so the Penske Javelin was an iconic car in our house. Years ago, I read 'The Unfair Advantage,' and I think it made my program better. I understand his significance in both SCCA and motorsports history. It's very humbling to be honored with the award bearing his name."

Prill, who serves as the Vice President and COO of SCCA, will be officially presented the award at the annual RRDC members' dinner at the Rolex 24 At Daytona on January 24.

RRDC president Bobby Rahal, a Runoffs champion (1975 Formula B) long before he won the 1986

Continued on page 7.

Continued from page 6.

Indianapolis 500, emphasized the RRDC Mark Donohue Award is "about personal spirit and performance behind the wheel. Those qualities are more important for this award than winning the race," he said. "The RRDC honors Eric not only for his outstanding drive to win, but for his perseverance. His passion for the sport he's embraced for so many years, as a racer and an SCCA employee, has never faltered."

Every year, the RRDC Mark Donohue trophy is an engraved glass top mounted on a special, racing-experienced wheel, provided by an RRDC member. This year's wheel was donated by Corvette Racing Program Manager Doug Fehan. It comes from the 2016 Rolex 24 At Daytona-winning Corvette No. 4 driven by Oliver Gavin, Tommy Milner and Marcel Fassler, in the closest finish in Daytona history, .034 seconds. All six Corvette Racing team drivers, including Jan Magnussen, Antonio Garcia and Mike Rockenfeller, in the No. 3 car, signed the wheel.

About the RRDC:

The Road Racing Drivers Club was formed in 1952 as a way to give champion drivers a say in their sport, particularly in the areas of safety, and has evolved to serve the future of road racing by mentoring new drivers on both amateur and professional levels. The Club's membership includes leading industry professionals, race officials and motorsports journalists, in addition to prominent racing names.

New SCCA Region Development Director

Beginning immediately, the Sports Car Club of America® has hired Chris Robbins as the new Director of Region Development. Robbins will now lead both the Region Development and Member Services departments.

In his new role, Robbins will focus on helping SCCA® regions grow by developing and deploying an effective mix of membership acquisition, membership service and training, and program creation as part of an overall development plan for regions. He will work closely with staff, regional leadership and member services to provide regions with effective growth strategies.

Robbins worked at Southwest Airlines for more than two

decades. From 2011 until his retirement in 2017, he served as a Customer Service Senior Manager, as well as a Curriculum Development Senior Manager and Senior Program Lead at Southwest Airlines University. He was part of the original leadership team focused on centralizing training for Southwest Airlines, provided leadership for a team of curriculum designers and developers, and managed customer service/hospitality training for over 54,000 employees. Additionally, Robbins has been a guest speaker at several SCCA National Conventions.

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The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

January 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.

MISC

With winter around the corner, I'll bet you are looking for more room to store all those summer items out of the weather. Check out a full description at "Menards" online store. Search Shed-in-a-Box, just enter item number 1934878. You will see the it originally cost \$160 but I'm only asking \$100 firm. Still packed in the original sealed box. For more info, e-mail doubledhtwo@yahoo.com**

Lifetime collection of fishing gear, roos, reels, lures and many extras. Best offer. Call Ed Hughes 330-929-4580.***

1993 Winnebago Warrior 25' Motorhome, 454 Chevy engine, trailer hitch & trailer brake system, tires good—front tires new, awning, everything (a/c, refrigerator, furnace, generator, etc.) works! A great racer's tow vehicle / weekend residence. Needs nothing! \$9,600, 43,000 mi. Bob Piekarczyk, 330-225-8229, parkera1@aol.com.***

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- 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.

For classified ads, contact Laura O'Neill:

- Laura O'Neill
397 Apple Hill Drive
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067
- 330-467-4472
- oneill397@windstream.net

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