



# The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

Volume 64, Issue 5

May 2017

## The Starting Line

REport by Kerry Klotzman

### Neohio SCCA Points Event #3

**June 25, 2017**  
**8:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Captain's Lot, Eastlake**  
**35010 Vine St.**  
**Willowick, OH 44095**

**Cost: \$25 - \$50**  
**Contact: Jason Pokines**  
**(440) 299-7656**

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Happy Spring/2017 Motorsports Season!

All signs are pointing to a good summer.

Tech and Physicals were last month. Thank you to Track First for hosting at their new location. The annual Tech and Physicals are in the books.

If you still need either done, you will have to make individual arrangements.

I spoke with the family that bought Nelson Ledges race facility. It is apparent that their goals for the track are very much in line with our hopes. I will need some help over the next year to help make suggestions for the improvements to the property to make sure that it is in alignment with what is needed to meet the requirements for SCCA to approve and Sanction events. I know that I am asking a lot, and risking "drinking out of a fire hydrant", but will do my best to be the liaison between the SCCA and the track to get it done right the first time. I am hoping to avoid the " why didn't you ask" situation.

I understand that there is an effort to write a book about the history about Nelson. If anyone has stories

that they would like to share, please email me or Bob Nick as soon as possible.

Our next TRSS (Tire Rack Street Survival) is in the planning stages, Bob MacDonald will have information as soon as we have a few details taken care of. Thank you Bob for taking charge with this important give back to the community. Please let us know if you would like to know more and/or get involved.

Solo is blazing ahead with 2 events already in the books. This appears to be the most active part of our Region. We have seen a great number of new members through their events.

That's all for now,

Kerry

NOTE: **Track First** has relocated:

**Track First**  
2636 Brecksville Rd Suite A  
Richfield, OH 44286  
(234) 380-5978

[www.track-first.com](http://www.track-first.com)

Hours 10:00AM - 5:00PM



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

**Neohio SCCA Website**  
[www.neohioscca.com](http://www.neohioscca.com)

**Neohio Region, SCCA**  
**Meeting Minutes APPROVED | April 4, 2017**

**Members Present:** Joe Blaha, Tara Oram, Jim Pracker, Jeff Blumenthal, Jason Pokines, Bob MacDonald, Gabe Gutierrez, Madeline Oswalt

**Excused Members:** Dave Lancaster, Kerry Klotzman, Scott Lunder, Jim Green, Bill Moore

**Guests:** Welcome to all!

Meeting called to order by Jim Pracker at 7:05 pm.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** MOTION – to accept report as presented. Pokines / MacDonald Approved. Tax bill was paid to Accounting Firm (1 time annually). All other expenses were 'normal'.

### **REPORTS & COMMITTEE REVIEWS**

**Regional Executive:** No Report

#### **Competition Committee:**

Upcoming Driver Physicals / Tech Inspection schedule change! Driver Physicals will be 4/29 10am-noon at Track First. Tech inspection remains as originally scheduled at Track First on May 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30am – 12:30 pm. Contact Debbie LaFond with questions.

**Membership:** 540 members

**Solo:** -Still working on potential West side Cleveland site. No progress to report at this time.

-Solo Prep workshop had 9 attendees at RadAir facility. Another will be planned for later this season.

-Safety Steward training at Track First had 27 attendees, some from other regions. Thanks to all who attended!

-Trailer Day is planned for 4/15 at RadAir, to test equipment and prep the trailer for the season.

-Trailer Graphics proposal pending. We will wait for a rendering, then vote to proceed. Provider would like company logo on trailer. (We will need to resolve any issues with updating Neohio logo. Plan is to use existing logo on Solo trailer, then update when needed)

-BUDGET REQUEST: Motion for \$200 budget for miscellaneous supplies to support trailer prep and Solo season. If approved, Joe Blaha will monitor expenses. (Blumenthal / Oswalt) APPROVED.

-BUDGET REQUEST: Motion for \$150 to have a Solo promotional video made. (Oswalt/Pracker) APPROVED

**Rally:** NO REPORT

**Street Survival:** Twinsburg interested in May 20<sup>th</sup> event. We will followup to schedule planning meeting after confirmation

**Hall of Fame:** Nominations for 2017/2018 requested. Send to Dorothy Harrington

#### **Old Business:**

-Banquet for 2018 planning for same venue (Pine Ridge CC). Pricing likely to increase by \$5. Suggestion made that we should let award winners know to increase likelihood of them attending. \$500 deposit check given to Duane.

-Club Insurance bill arrived. MOTION TO PAY \$1306 (MacDonald/Pokines) APPROVED (suggestion to put out for future bids)

-Karting social event at High Voltage was a success!

-Per Gabe: Nelson Ledges willing to have SCCA be onsite for open Track days to promote club. No charge if we do it.

-Per Maddie: Followup on suggestion to have next meeting be a planning/Board "Retreat" type of meeting. MOTION: conduct. Next meeting at Impact Communications (5/2/17) and Maddie will facilitate the planning session. (Pokines/MacDonald) APPROVED

-After discussion, it appears that the only officer position prohibited from voting is the RE. If accurate, we have a full Board. Jeff will inquire about any constitution issues that conflict with this understanding.

**New Business:** Joe Blaha requested reimbursement for \$61.19 expenses for Treasurer's duties. MOTION (Oswalt/MacDonald) APPROVED

Next Meeting: May 2, 2017 at IMPACT COMMUNICATIONS (PLANNING SESSION)

MOTION to adjourn at 8:25 pm. (Oram/Blaha) – Approved

# DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY / JUNE 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21
May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28
May 29 Memorial Day	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4
June 5	June 6 7 P Trustee Meeting @ Impact Communications, Downtown CLE	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11
June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18
June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25 7 A Solo Event #3 @ Eastlake Captain's Lot
June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2

# SCCA Names Brand Builder, Competitor New President/CEO

TOPEKA, Kan. (May 15, 2017) -- After an extensive and thoughtful search process, Sports Car Club of America® proudly announces Michael Cobb as the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer. An SCCA® member with more than 25 years of diverse experience transforming brands, companies and cultures, Cobb will officially embrace his new role June 1 with the Club.



New SCCA President and CEO Michael Cobb and the Chevrolet Camaro he autocrosses at SCCA events.

*Photos Courtesy of YLK Photography and Lightspeed Images.*

The Dallas-area resident comes to the SCCA after serving as Chief Marketing Officer for Gold's Gym, one of the most recognized names in fitness. During his tenure at Gold's Gym, Cobb leveraged his marketing, business development and operations leadership skills to help reposition the company, expand the brand's footprint and deliver new products that capitalize on emerging consumer trends.

Lee Hill, Chairman of SCCA's 13-member Board of Directors, said Cobb emerged as an extremely strong candidate from the seven finalists considered for the position. After a 13-0 vote, Cobb was identified as the unanimous choice by Board members.

"There were three very strong candidates at the end of the interview process who all met the criteria being sought," Hill noted. "Michael's skill and experience in marketing and as a franchisor gave him an edge, and all 13 members of the Board believe he's best for this position. Michael can come into this exciting opportunity knowing the Board is solidly invested in his hire, which will give him a strong foundation for future success."

Prior to Gold's Gym, Cobb established a strong track record developing and operating several different agency business units for Omnicom, one of the most dynamic marketing communication companies in the world. He has led marketing efforts for brands such as Pizza Hut, Burger King, Pepsi, Lipton, KFC, Dannon and Frito-Lay. He has shown a particular knack for "activating" brands and businesses with solutions that attract customers, inspire stakeholders, create community and drive growth.

Cobb graduated with a bachelor's degree in advertising from Sam Houston State University, and went on to graduate from Omnicom's Global Senior Management Program and The STAGEN Integral Leadership Program. In his new position as SCCA President/CEO, Cobb is tasked with structuring, building, managing and leading effective staff and operational efforts. He will partner with the Board of Directors and staff to craft, update and forward the vision, mission and strategic goals of the organization. His role includes functioning as a leader, ambassador, spokesperson and

representative, as well as becoming the "face of the SCCA." The assignment requires collaboratively engaging with and supporting the Board of Directors to ensure highly effective governance, leadership and policy setting efforts. He will model and inspire a positive, cooperative, inclusive and fun Club culture and brand, as well as advance the highest safety and ethical standards on behalf of SCCA members, regions, participants, staff, spectators and other key stakeholders.

"At the highest level, this opportunity is about building relationships and stewardship," Cobb said. "Strengthening relationships based on trust across the BoD, regions, staff, membership and our valued partners will continue to be job one. And with regard to stewardship, it is about doing all we can, collectively, to ensure we build a solid foundation that sets the SCCA up for much more success across the next 70 years."

While Cobb arrives at the SCCA with fantastic professional credentials, he also brings with him a love of motorsport. He grew up in admiration of his father, an

*Continued on page 6.*



Continued from page 5.

autocrosser who won local SCCA events with regularity. Racing firmly embedded in his DNA, Cobb established his competition "career" at an early age by winning a Texas Soap Box Derby event, and competed in the Nationals in Akron, Ohio. In 2007, he began participating in SCCA autocross with the Texas Region, claimed the Novice of the Year award in his first full season of competition, and competed in the Tire Rack SCCA Solo Nationals. Through such participation, Cobb discovered what keeps SCCA members returning year after year.

"Of course, the thrill of competition and having fun with cars is a big part of the SCCA lifestyle," Cobb noted. "The camaraderie and 'relationships' built through Club activities are a huge part of the equation, too. I am just as passionate about building relationships based on trust, respect and integrity as I am about winning my class at the next autocross event."

The search for a new President/CEO began late last year. Before applicants were sought, SCCA's Board of Directors worked extensively with a consulting firm to outline attributes for an ideal candidate. Nearly 100 people applied for the position. The Board of Directors, after two anonymous votes, narrowed the field down to seven candidates for the interview phase. The finalists completed surveys that helped identify strengths and management styles in March 2017 before in-person interviews with the Board of Directors.

## Race Results

By Debbie LaFond

Congratulations to the Neohio Drivers that went to Pittsburgh International Race Complex the weekend of May 14/15. Racers had great weather and new pavement on the track. There were 24 new class track records over the two days for the opening race of the season in our area.

### 65<sup>th</sup> Cumberland Classic "Fire & Ice" Majors

#### Name/Class/Class Position/Sat & Sun

David Strittmatter - FP - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Joel Hipp - GTL - 5<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Robert MacDonald -SM-20<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Dan Harding - SM - 21<sup>st</sup>

Ted Sahley - B-Spec - 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

Rob Piekarczyk - B-Spec - 6<sup>th</sup>

Ryan McManus - GT1 - 1<sup>st</sup> and new track records both days!

Al Gaudino GT1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> both days

Terry Gilles - GT2 - 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

Aaron Quine - GT2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

John Lechner - AS - 5<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Brian Farnham - FV - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

William Moore - T2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Ali Salih - T3 - 1<sup>st</sup> & new track records both days!

Keith Jones - T4 - 8<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Michale Lee - STU - 5<sup>th</sup>

## Auto Annex Toy Store LLC Fine Quality Motor Sales



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# Competition Region Championship Points

Neohio has restructured the points system to have groups of classes versus each class this year for end of year awards.

discrepancy in the points recorded, please contact Debbie LaFond at [fastlady1026@yahoo.com](mailto:fastlady1026@yahoo.com) for correction.

You do not have to submit points at the end of the year as you have in the past, we will do our best to track them during the year.

Debbie LaFond

We will post points each month in the *Blower*, on Facebook and the Neohio website. If you see a

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**2017 SCCA® Runoffs®  
at Indianapolis  
Motor Speedway**

**September 25-October 1, 2017**



Region Championship		Points	HS	HS	SB	SB	VIR	VIR	SP	SP	BH	BH	PITT	PITT
As of 5/14/17														
GT1, GT2, GT3, AS	Ryan McManus - GT1	50											25	25
	Dan Harding - GT2	44	16	14	0	14							0	0
	Al Gaudino - GT1	42											21	21
	John Lechner - AS	34											16	18
	Terry Gilles - GT2	33											17	16
	Aaron Quine - GT2	21											0	21
STL, STU, B-Spec	Ted Sahley - B Spec	33											17	16
	Michael Lee - STU	16											16	
	Rob Piekarczyk - B Spec	15											15	0
EP, FP, HP, GTL	David Stritmatter - FP	35											18	17
	Joel Hipp - GTL	35											17	18
SM (ALL CLASSES)	Robert MacDonald - SM	28							7	8	2	5	1	5
	Dan Harding - SM	0											0	0
ASR, P1, P2														
SRF, SRF3														
T1, T2, T3, T4	William Moore - T2	71									18	18	18	17
	Ali Salih - T3	50											25	25
	Keith Jones - T4	27											13	14
FA, FB, FC, FE	Jim Libecco - FE	10							10	0				
FV, FF, F5, FM, FS, FST	Brian Farnham - FV	92							25	21			25	21
ITE, ITR, ITS														
ITA, ITB, ITC														



# The Blower

Newsletter of Neohio Region, SCCA

May 2017

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

'99 Acura Integra ITS #13. Always a top finisher. Engine alone worth \$5000 plus you get a ready to go car for only \$7500/offer. Pat Kane, 440-785-3432.\*\*\*

### MISC

WANTED - Used enclosed trailer between 15 and 20 feet. Ramp or doors at rear and side door. Any condition undercarriage. Going to be used for storage. Must be delivered to my site. Contact doubledhtwo@yahoo.com.\*\*\*

1993 Winnebago Warrior 25' Motorhome, 454 Chevy Engine, Trailer hitch & trailer brake system, Tires good—front tires new, Everything (a/c, refrigerator, furnace, generator, etc.) works! Awning - 42,300 miles. A great racer's tow vehicle/weekend residence. Needs nothing! \$11,000. Bob Piekarczyk, 330-225-8229, parkera1@aol.com.\*\*\*

Triumph-TR-3 Engine; FIAT 600 Engine. Larry at 216-321-6045, 10 AM to 5 PM.\*\*\*

## Advertisement Rates

For ads, other than classified, 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.

To place a classified ad, contact Laura O'Neill:

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

Classified ads are free for members.