



South Jersey Region SCCA
50th Anniversary

*The Official Newsletter
of the South Jersey SCCA*

September 2009

New Heights

There has never been a better time to be part of the South Jersey Racing community.

As the sun set on our first annual Summer Thunder regional held on the Thunderbolt circuit at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville, NJ, the last checker flag having been waved on a fantastic FF/F500/FV race, Regional Executive Jim Tornetta looked over the paddock as race rigs were leaving, and we both were a bit choked up reflecting on how far we've come in just a year. All the volunteers, officials, crews, and drivers who persevered through the heat and rain Friday and Saturday, to enjoy a glorious day of racing on Sunday, who made all of this possible. Our July Lightning Challenge and August Summer Thunder have put New Jersey squarely on the road racing radar screen. Two world-class tracks in our backyard. Large competitive fields. Well-run race weekends. After 20 years of racing, I can tell you my friends that it simply does not get any better than this.

Read more about the Summer Thunder Regional and the July Lightning Challenge inside, along with updates from Laps to Conquer Multiple Sclerosis, updates from our racers, news --- all good stuff.

If you're sitting on the sidelines interested in becoming more involved, in whatever capacity, all you need to do is contact a member of the Board or a Specialty chief, listed inside. You will not regret it, this is the coolest stuff on the planet.

2009 Road Racing Driver Results

Club Racing drivers should send brief updates on their results during the 2009 season to SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net for recognition in At Speed and consideration for 2009 awards. I expect our 2009 driver honors to be hotly contested. Please be sure we have your information!

Email Sign-up

Sign up to receive your newsletter via email. You'll get the newsletter faster and in full color. SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net with the subject line 'Subscribe' to enroll and your name in the body of the note.

Enjoy New Jersey Motorsports Park with the South Jersey Region all season long

A 50+ car ProIt field running with the ARCA Remax Series September 11-13 Pro-IT in support of ARCA on Thunderbolt??!! You simply must see this!

Jersey Road Racing Classic on Lightning October 16-18. The most track time you'll get in a Regional

*Your Humble
Scribe,*

Tom Smith



Who We Are

Board of Directors

Regional Executive	Jim Tornetta	609 893 5701	re@sjr-scca.org
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Sound	Alex Collins	856 753 9660	
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Webmaster	Meg Meyer		webmaster@sjr-scca.org

South Jersey Region website: www.sjr-scca.org

New Jersey Road Racing Series: www.njrrs.com

Rally On

On Saturday September 19th the South Jersey Region is holding a Tour style Time-Speed Distance Rally. The rally registration opens at 5:30pm with the first car leaving at 6:30 pm from JG Cooks Carolina Blue Restaurant in Pitman NJ. The rally ends at New Jersey Motor Sports Park in Millville at the racetrack's Club House. Entry fee is only \$30 per car for SCCA members. Pre paying reduces that fee to \$25. For more information contact Jim Wakemen at 856-228-9249. Come out and support the rally program. For more information on rallying for those who may be new and want to give it a try --- all events are on public roads in regular street cars at legal speeds and are set up to challenge problem-solving skills, teamwork, and precision --- see our website at www.sjr-scca.org and click on the Rally link to access the excellent 'How To Rally' information posted there.

Autocross Corner

South Jersey Region will be returning to its home at Camden County College's Blackwood Campus for its regular summer series. Remaining events are as follows (all are Sundays):

- September 27
- October 25

Check out the South Jersey website for more details: www.sjr-scca.org.

[Editor's Note: We're looking for a volunteer to chronicle our autocross events in At Speed: don't be shy, send news and pictures to SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net so we can all enjoy reading more about this exciting part of our automotive hobby!]

Laps To Conquer Multiple Sclerosis 2009 One Lap of America Now Online!

Each year Fay and David Teal compete in the incredibly challenging One Lap of America event as part of their overall Laps to Conquer Multiple Sclerosis program. Visit www.lapstoconquerms.org for a full write-up of the event, for more information on LCMS, for pictures and links, and you'll be amazed at the effort and endurance (and perhaps, dare I say, bit of craziness) that it takes to tackle the One Lap! Here's an excerpt from Fay to whet your appetite:

"The LCMS Dominion Title Audubon Environmental Sunoco Thompson Toyota was excellent over-the-road and behaved well on-course, doing a total 5,076 trouble free miles. David would have preferred more power but finishing 6th out of 10 Mid Priced Sedans in a totally stock Camry wasn't bad. The Camry went to the May 13 meeting of the South Jersey Region, SCCA then back to Thompson Toyota on the 14th. The time LCMS had with the Dominion Title Audubon Environmental Sunoco Thompson Toyota Camry was short but very pleasant. LCMS thanks Dominion Title Services, Inc., Audubon Environmental, Sunoco, especially Thompson Toyota and the Associate sponsors for continuing to make the drive to end MS possible - it can't be done without them."

Stop by and visit Fay and David at any SCCA membership meeting or at any of our events and NJMP to learn more about LCMS and to hear first-hand about their decades of experience in one of motorsports' most epic events.

MARRS/NARRC Summer Thunder at Thunderbolt Raceway

Following on the heels of our successful 2nd Annual Lightning Challenge in July on the Lightning circuit at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville, we enjoyed another 200+ car field for the Mid-Atlantic Road Racing Series / North Atlantic Road Racing Championship shootout event --- our first annual Summer Thunder regional.

From the moment Race Chairman J.D. King personally greeted each entrant as they entered the paddock Thursday evening until the last checkered flag waved on Sunday evening, all the volunteers, officials, crew, and drivers did an excellent job in challenging conditions --- oppressive heat on Friday and Sunday, with nothing short of Biblical rains on Saturday --- to pull off an amazing and successful event.

Friday's test day was well attended and there was a lot of track time for all, probably about as much as anyone could undertake given the heat and humidity. Some heavy rains delayed the start of Saturday's qualifying sessions and qualifying races, but creative work on the schedule and overtime work by all the volunteers and officials ensured that everything went off as planned. A mixture of rain and dry conditions on Saturday challenged drivers, crew, and workers, but heck this is SCCA racing --- if there's a race track and race cars, the event goes on!

Saturday ended with the aforementioned Biblical rain, continuing during the night but Sunday dawned a perfect and dry race day. On Saturday evening, Noah brought his ark through the paddock to collect up two of every kind of race car 'just in case'. Many folks simply abandoned shoes altogether --- the drenching rains were so deep and resulted in conditions where shoes were nothing more than squishy extensions of the rain-soaked paddock. In an almost surreal moment, I saw our own Tosh Desai dragging his grill across the paddock during the height of the rain, seeking out higher ground on which to, well, barbeque. What else is a man to do?! Well done Tosh.

Looking through the results, the following South Jersey Region drivers achieved:

Jonathan Pressman, 2nd SSM
Pete Maerz, 10th SSM
Michael Lamaina, 14th SSM and 16th in Spec Miata
Lee Brahin, 1st in Wings and Things, 1st FA
Tom Smith, 2nd in Wings and Things, 1st FB
Joseph Tauro, 5th in Wings and Things, 1st CSR
Tosh Desai, 5th in Spec Miata
Jim Boggs, 2nd in Spec Racer Ford
Steve Thomas, 5th in Spec Racer Ford
Mike Thomas, 18th in Spec Racer Ford
Tim Miller, 19th in Spec Racer Ford
Kyle Robertson, 22nd in Spec Racer Ford
Frank Sanchez, 1st in SPU
John Hainsworth, 1st in ITS
Eric King, 2nd in ITS
John Redden, 7th in ITS
Brian Bates, 3rd in T1
J.D. King, 1st in Club Ford
Forrest Hull, 2nd in Formula Ford
Mike Allenbaugh, 1st in Formula 500
And Brian Heun with an unfortunate DNF after his first race win in July

We're a small region of 350 members ... so look at those results and say 'this is our house!' Our drivers are showing the best on the East Coast who has be beaten to bring home bragging rights at NJMP. Well done everyone.

Your humble scribe does not get to witness every race, but for the action I was able to see I will highlight the drives that Forrest, JD, and Mike had in the formula car race, the times that Frank turned in SPU, Jim and Steve lifting their Spec Race Fords up to the pointy end of the stick, Tosh fighting his way in the tough Spec Miata field, and the spirited ITS battle with John H, Eric, and John R in the thick of it. Oh, and I got a nice view of Lee's gorgeous Formula Atlantic as he shot by me for the overall lead in Wings and Things! We've got to give a shout out to Lee --- a South Jersey Region member and resident, who is, by the way, one of the principal owners of NJMP. Thank you Lee from the bottom of our racing souls for bringing New Jersey Motorsports Park to life.

These are the times of our lives.

At Speed September 2009

Race Report from the 'Small Bore' Race Group

Frank Sanchez

The Friday test day was spent dialing in our Dodge Daytona SPU car [Editor's Note: You MUST check out this car, it is sweet!] after a suspension failure and resulting crash at the July Lightning Challenge. All went well and we were confident that the little 'four banger' was within its set-up sweet spot.

Then on Saturday the monsoons came ... although I seem to do well in the rain I can't say I have ever liked racing in it. We all know those who say, "I hope it rains". Don't count me in that group. I dislike the rain so much I don't even own rain tires for fear that I will use them in a moment of desperation then regret it. As I explained to Tosh Desai, Mazda guru and master instructor, "I don't need practice going slow. I can give workshops on that!" Race chair JD King reported that 4 inches of rain were registered in 22 minutes at the Millville airport. Folks, that is serious rain. Let's just say we survived and were ready for a clear Sunday.

This is our second race weekend with the MARRS 'invaders'. The first time around they cleaned our clocks, in our own backyard. As if they come conquering in overwhelming waves. [Editor's note: continuing with the Biblical rain theme ...]

Now, onto the race. Having skipped the wet qualifying, you have correctly surmised that we started last. At the drop of the green I find myself boxed in, so I wait and wait some more until I see a gap and start to drive my way through. The two drivers in front of me --- Bruce Shelton and Bob Rappleye --- are wrapped in mortal combat as if for the Formula 1 world championship, or so it seems. These guys are in different classes, so why the turf fight? Then I remember: we are small bore drivers, we take momentum seriously and do not lift!

After two laps pushing each other hard, Bruce goes off in Turn One and I get by. By now the overall leader has a 15 second lead. He wasn't exactly waiting for me to move through the field and to catch up.

I settle in for the chase, see the voltage dropping, alternator not charging, cool suit intermittent on a 90+ degree day, so much a driver has to manage while executing his racecraft. I finally catch the super agile car of SPU competitor Phil Ackley, a very accomplished driver, we each took regional championships over 30 years ago and have shared the track ever since, and we trust each other's judgment on the track based on decades of experience. But, as I radioed in to my spotter, best friend, and tough-minded wife 'He's on the edge, it's getting dicey' and she minced no words 'Pass him NOW' so I complied. Voltage dropping more, motor sputtering cool suit has long since checked out heat building driver suffering checkered flag in sight ... then victory! That was close, too much drama.

We came in second overall to Phil Hollenbeck who won in E Production, and we did manage to lower the track record. Thanks to Royal, our engineer for fixing the car just right after the big crash in July. Guys, all things considered, this was another fun day in the neighborhood. [Editor's note: Frank, Dr. Janice Hainsworth is a South Jersey Region member and a professional psychologist --- she will see you now! All kidding aside, on behalf of all our readers, thanks for taking the time to send in this insightful race report.]

Spotlight: Bob Spreen

Frank Sanchez

Bob Spreen is a rare breed. Back in the day he was one of the few who could challenge the mighty factory Group 44 fleet of racers. He was a high level executive of British Leyland overseeing the likes of Jaguar, Triumph, and MG. He was, and still is, an inspiration for all racers, having words of encouragement for all. He embodies the 'never say never' club racer attitude. He is a great race engineer who never fails to take the time to answer the entry level questions of those less experienced. He is a great racer, fast, clean, always delivering results. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet him, do so. He is one of a kind, a rare breed. We can all learn from him. When I started racing 38 years ago, I learned from a wise veteran Bob Spreen.

He was at Thunderbolt competing in the Summer Thunder regional in his beloved classic MG Midget. I had occasion to be behind him in the small bore race. I remembered all the times in the past when I simply wished I could be as fast as him. He taught me that patience is an important racing virtue. This legendary Gentleman Bob put himself in harm's way moving off line into the slippery marbles to wave me by, and I waved to thank him, just as he did many, many times years ago as he passed me. The cars may have gotten faster and more technologically advanced but in my mind he is still the faster driver, the rabbit to chase.

Bob was retired from racing for a while and in his return to the track he has had some bad luck. A mechanical failure at the July Lightning Challenge kept him from competition. An unfortunate wreck --- a true racing incident --- did significant damage to the beloved classic MG at Summer Thunder at Thunderbolt this past race.

Those who know him know that he always said "its about having fun and being part of the racing family.' Bob, I know I speak for 'the family' when I say "fix that legendary MG and get back on track with us!" [Editor's note: We all wish Bob a speedy return to competition and thank Frank for sharing this inspiring story.]

Thunderbolts

Please welcome our newest members:



Rocco Trapani, Scott Straub, Richard Patterson, Terry Koslowsky-Barr, Bernadette Bundy, and Mario Sharbel Sait Dias.

Pictures Needed!



OK, your humble scribe cannot be trusted to take pictures for At Speed ... I simply forgot at Summer Thunder. Please help out by sending good pic's to SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net so that future issues will have more eye candy!



Quote of the month, paraphrased by JD King from a post on apexspeed.com: "Perhaps all you need to know about racing can be learned in a Formula Ford. I'd submit to you that almost all you need to know about life can be discovered within the racing community." Amen to that.



Jim and Pat Briody are in Portugal and Spain to experience yet another Touring Car endurance race on yet another new track for their racing resume --- Barcelona! They don't think the TV coverage for that event will reach the states, but Jim's Rolex series race from Miller Motorsports Park in Utah will be on Speed Channel September 19th at 5:30pm Eastern time so be sure to look for car #21 in what Pat describes tongue-in-cheek as 'the slow class in the Rolex race, whatever that is, we don't even know his co-drivers name!'



The Fun One at Watkins Glen is scheduled for September 19th and 20th. This is a great event, running on the long F1/Indy Car long course on Saturday and the NASCAR short course on Sunday.



Lightning Up

Overheard at the Summer Thunder race

JD King to John Hainsworth, who was helping him late into the night getting the #39 Zink Club Ford ready for action the next day en route to victory, as John was sitting on a tire which needed to be mounted on the car to complete the job: "Un-ass that tire, now!"

Hoosier tire representative extraordinaire Bob Smart (aka 'Smarty") to an overly excited driver (your humble scribe) who desperately needed an unusual sized set of rain tires to make his qualifying session with less than 30 minutes to go and who had exclaimed "Smarty, I'm screwed, can you help me?" The answer? "You're not screwed until I say so!" Tire inventory flew out of the Hoosier trailer until he found, remarkably, exactly the set needed buried amidst the rubble of inventory. Well said Smarty!

Pre-teen Max King, son of race chair JD King and grandson of Chief Steward Sue King, looking at the sea of grass and weeds in the paddock during the Biblical rains: "This is like seaweed, without the sea."

And all of us wish a speedy recovery to Sue King, who suffered non-life-threatening but significant injuries in a freak accident driving home from work just before the Summer Thunder event, resulting in a total loss of her BMW M3 which sacrificed itself to protect her. We'll see you at the track soon Sue and we all love you!

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At@Speed

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Of The South Jersey Region S.C.C.A.

Web site: www.sjr-scca.org

Member meeting: Wednesday September 9,
Uno Chicago Grill, Route 73 Maple Shade.

ARCA ReMax series and ProIT September 11-
13 at NJMP!

Rally – September 19,
jwakemen43@aol.com

Autocross – Camden County College –
September 27.



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