

At@Speed

www.sjr-scca.org

April 2010

SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net

12-Step Program

It's dangerous when Webmaster Meg Meyer and I trade ideas. The latest is our 12-step program.

Let's say, for the sake of argument, that you are, or someone you know is, a gear-head, addicted to cars and motorsports.

Here's the deal: there's no shame in that. We have far more than 12 steps you can take. No other 12-step program offers you more menu options.

Come to a membership meeting or event planning meeting, an autocross, rally, or road-racing event at NJMP, as a participant, volunteer, or interested spectator.

The what and when doesn't matter, as long as you get your 12 doses of motorsports in this season.

Promise? All the information you need is inside. Report in on your progress, we're all interested.

Laps to Conquer MS
(www.lapstoconquerms.org)

The 2010 One Lap of America will cover thousands of miles featuring at least 9 different tracks including New Jersey Motorsports Park. Laps to Conquer M.S. will contest the event in a New Jersey Motorsports Park Subaru WRX, lead by Fay and David Teal. This is late-braking news (sic intended): LCMS were presented with car and NJMP check at the late March

Drivers School and Performance Driving Experience (PDX) weekend. LCMS now has a good car and a lot of experience, and a worthy mission, so let's all root for and support the Teals in the 2010 One Lap of America. Heck, Brock Yates himself was at our PDX getting some practice. David, I have a couple of speed secrets for you for NJMP's Lightning Circuit, and, well, Brock didn't ask, so ...

Email Sign-up

Receive your newsletter via email. You'll get the newsletter faster and in full color. Email SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net to enroll, subject line 'Subscribe' and please include your name in the body of the note.

*Your Humble Scribe,
Tom Smith*



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

New Jersey Road Racing Series: www.njrrs.com

At Speed: SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net editor Tom Smith

Autocross Corner

It appears as though we have a new location for our South Jersey Region Solo II aka Autocross program.

Unless otherwise posted on our website, www.sjr-scca.org/solo the plan is to have all our events in a lot located at 1155 S Black Horse Pike, Williamstown NJ 08094 --- the lot is behind a CVS.

Registration begins by 8am and first car off by 10am. Events are planned for April 11, May 2 and 23, June 27, July 25, August 15, September 12, and October 17.

All Autocross information --- schedule, location, registration, results, and all the information needed for new participants, are available at www.sjr-scca.org/solo . In these events, virtually any street car and any driver can have safe fun racing against the clock for bragging rights through a course of cones that challenges driver and car technically. Miata, Cummins TurboDiesel full ton Duallie pickup (yes, there's a VERY quick one of those entered regularly, this you have to see!) or anything in between, the 2010 Autocross season offers you a chance to have fun in your car or truck safely. The email is solochair@sjr-scca.org .

Rally On

Upcoming Saturday April 17 at 5:30pm is The Unexpected RoadRally.

A RoadRally is a test of precision driving and navigation. It is NOT a race! The goal is to reach each checkpoint exactly on time, neither early nor late. The event takes place on public roads, with speeds at or below the legal limit.

If you're a car enthusiast, like puzzles, enjoy driving through scenic countryside, or are just looking for an interesting activity and the opportunity to meet new people, you ought to give RoadRallying a try! All you need are two people (a driver and navigator) and a car, small truck, or van.

At the start of the event you'll be given a set of route instructions detailing turns to make, mileages to travel, speeds to follow, and landmarks to look for. What the instructions won't tell you are the locations of the checkpoints, where you'll be scored based on how close your arrival time is to the 'perfect' time.

Afterwards, all the competitors are invited to have a drink, grab a bite to eat, and swap war stories about the day's event at the finishing location, Carolina Blue in Pitman. Trophies will be awarded to the top finishers.

The Unexpected RoadRally is a straightforward TSD (Time-Speed-Distance) Touring Rally. Less than 15% of the roads on this event are unpaved. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Rally Chairperson, Jim Wakemen, at (856) 228-9249 or jwakemen43@aol.com.

Registration opens at 5:30 pm. First car is off at 6:31 pm. The rally cars should be finished by approximately 10:30 pm.

Visit www.sjr-scca.org/rally.html for the full season schedule and very helpful information.

Track Days

By Joe Pilato, thanks Joe

Any businessperson involved in customer relations is familiar with the prominence of the "golf outing" as a key relationship tool. The school of thought is that those who "play" together have a better chance of doing business together. While this often holds true, not everyone plays golf. Some don't like the game. Some, like myself, have no aptitude for it. Over the years, while members of my foursome look to the sky admiring their soaring tee shots, I, more often than not, look up to watch my ball rolling along the ground on its way past the ladies tee (hopefully). Try as I might, my limited time on the links has left me with an unreliable swing that delivers the club head one time to the top of the ball, another time into the turf, but rarely into the ball directly. So, what's a businessperson to do?

Well, in 2008 New Jersey Motorsports Park opened in the South Jersey town of Millville, NJ and with it a whole new avenue for business recreational relationships was opened as well. Recreational interests are numerous. Although golf is a popular pastime, many guys and gals are car buffs who dream about driving their high performance vehicle at the speeds and in the manner that they are capable of. These days, the automotive marketplace offers vehicles with a level of performance that cannot be explored on public roads (that is, if you are socially responsible and law abiding).

Fast cars provide a temptation that can't be yielded to...unless you have access to a race track. South Jersey residents now have access to a race track; two of them, in fact. New Jersey Motorsports Park offers the Thunderbolt track (2.25 miles long with 14 turns) as well as the Lightning Track (1.9 miles, 10 turns). These tracks have been designed not only with the spirit of driving fun, but also with safety in mind. Since opening in August of 2008, NJ Motorsports Park has not only hosted races for various professional series but also accommodates "track days" or "driver education days" for the SCCA, Porsche Club of America and other car clubs from around the region.

My company, Maran Corporate Risk Associates, is an insurance brokerage in Marlton. As it turns out, a number of my clients have been bitten by the car bug and have scratched their itches by purchasing "hot" cars. One of my clients has 5 Corvettes, another a race-prepped Mazda Miata and a BMW M3, another has an AC Cobra replica that he built himself as well as some vintage muscle cars. I have a Porsche 944 Turbo as well as a Camaro SS. Having NJ Motorsports Park in the area now provides me and other "car crazy" businesspeople a place to share our common interest.

Twice during this past summer, I joined clients for a day of perfectly legal, triple-digit speed and at-the-limit cornering fun.

In July we ran our cars on the Thunderbolt circuit, which is the track of choice for most of the professional race series hosted by NJMP. In October, we had a turn on the Lightning circuit, which is shorter but just as fun (some critics prefer the Lightning track because of its better "rhythm").



Although golf is a great pastime, driving a car to its limits on a racetrack is a more unique experience. Many people have hit (or tried to hit) a golf ball at a corporate golf outing. How many people have put their foot to the floor down the front straightaway of a racetrack and left it there till the speedometer read 120mph? That kind of common experience has a tendency to create a special bond among people who were formerly just "business associates".

2010 Road Racing Season Preview

Sitting down with pen and paper, calendar, Internet connection, and a crazy boatload of different options for the 2010 racing season --- Where? When? Doing What?

OK, New Jersey Motorsports Park is barely 40 minutes from home, so our local schedule is the best, 2 tracks there, a diversity of events, hmmm.

The weekend of May 8-9 is the Trans-Am weekend at NJMP. Those who know what Trans-Am was, is, and can be, will quickly realize that Trans-Am's date at our track is a pivotal point in its history, one which we should all support. The knock-off series in England, Germany, and Australia which were part of the original Trans-Am excitement are incredible thriving Touring Car brands attracting tens and often hundreds of thousands of fans each event. Imagine that same success for Trans-Am at NJMP. Be part of it ...

In June we have an SCCA National on Thunderbolt June 5-6. Joining the National is a TeamDI Pro-IT series championship event. Folks, it doesn't get any better than this.

Well, maybe it does! June 18-19 is the first ever The Devil in The Dark 12 Hour Enduro. Whether as a driver, crew member, volunteer, race official, or spectator, this is an event not to be missed 12 hours on Thunderbolt, noon to midnight, yo, don't miss this.

Take a deep breath, and get ready for the mid-summer action. July 9-11 is our regional on Lightning, where you'll see blistering lap times on our ultra-quick Lightning track complete with two jumps. July 16-18 is the Grand Am pro weekend, all the cars from the Daytona 24 hour race in our backyard. August 13-15 is the ARCA ReMax series stock car event supported by our own TeamDI Pro-IT series. Tens of thousands of fans cheering for SCCA IT cars, you do not want to miss this!!

A regional August 20-22 on Thunderbolt is next up immediately following the ARCA event on the big pro Thunderbolt circuit, and then our season-ending Jersey Road Racing Championship (JeRRC) event October 23-24 is a signature 3-race event on the epic Lightning circuit.



Thunderbolts

Please welcome our newest members:



Wow, we have so many, 34 in the past 90 days, 364 total members, can't list all here. You all rock, now plan your 12-step attack on the season.



The Devil In The Dark is coming to New Jersey Motorsports Park's Thunderbolt circuit on June 18-19. www.thedevilinthedark.com is your complete source for event information, team smack talk, technical advice, random aquatic references, Darrel Anthony standing in for Anjelic Huston, and other remarkable keepsakes. Please join in the fun at www.thedevilinthedark.com and we'll see you in June at the track.



South Jersey Region is pleased to announce that our At Speed newsletter and region website was awarded third in the country (!!) in the awards for Region Communications, and that we were awarded the Tom Burke award for growth among medium sized regions.



Geoffrey Hall is a motorsports photographer who joined us for the March 2010 Drivers School and PDX. His photos are available at <http://hotlapphoto.zenfolio.com/marchlion-2010> and you will be pleased with the action he has captured and the quality of the images.



Lightning Up

Our Drivers School on March 27-28 was rather successful. Our chief registrar Valerie Heun showed who wears pants in the family when she bested husband Brian's best times in the ubiquitous Wed Wabbit. The lovely (and talented) Brian Heun was quick to point out that he still had more off's than Val, so he's got that going for him. Well done, Val.

Don Colanero was brilliant in Mike Allenbaugh's F500, the star pupil of the school. Well done Don, he will be a welcome and worth competitor in whatever class he chooses.

Yes, it was cold, and windy, and cold, for the March Lion Driver School and PDX at NJMP's Lightning circuit. But still, eager drivers took to the track and flexed their muscles --- newcomer and veteran alike --- and it was indeed a good way to start the season.

Off in the distance I caught a glimpse of a Cummins Turbo-Diesel Dualie coming out of the Light Bulb sliding the rear, and into Turn 1 an SRT-8 burning both rear tires over the jump. Welcome to spring at NJMP.



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

Web site: www.sjr-scca.org

Autocross April 11 and May 2 at our new location.

The Unexpected Rally April 17, see inside.

Member meeting: April 14, Uno Chicago Grill,
Route 73 Maple Shade.

Trans-Am at NJMP May 8-9



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