

# At @ Speed

[www.sjr-scca.org](http://www.sjr-scca.org)

August 2010

[SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net](mailto:SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net)

## *The Heart of The Season*

The headline could easily be 'The Heat of the Season'. In contrast to last season when we saw more than our share of wet events, the buzzword of the 2010 season thus far could be 'heat'. Which is fine – the inherent challenges of motorsports and the commitment required by everyone involved are only heightened by the extra challenge weather may offer.

Crews, officials, drivers all withstood the heat for the inaugural Devil In the Dark 12-hour endurance race at New Jersey Motorsports Park's Thunderbolt circuit. And what an event it was!

The Third Annual Lightning Challenge went off without a hitch on NJMP's Lightning Circuit, with rain adding to the qualifying excitement on Saturday, followed by brilliant sunshine, heat, and humidity for the Sunday races.

The Rolex Grand Am weekend was also a sauna, and after seeing all our weekend warriors withstanding similar conditions in the 12-hour just a few weeks before, I couldn't help but smile seeing the pro drivers and teams struggling mightily with the effects of the heat. It made me proud of all the folks involved in our regional events, who do it for fun and not for a paycheck, and who can tough it out with the best in the business.

And speaking of heat, here's a shout out to Matt Tornetta. Matt's out there working the corner stations in Flagging and Communications for every event at NJMP involving SCCA volunteers. He rolls in

with his 'performance enhanced' Volvo station wagon --- his Autocross car and weekend hotel wrapped up in one --- with some hot wings from the Picallili Inn in hand, and is out there on station making all this possible. 12 hours without a break during the Enduro is hero stuff. But I was never prouder of Matt and all our race officials than when, during the Rolex Grand Am weekend, a car pulled up to his corner station well and truly on fire --- fully engulfed in flames, the driver struggling to get out even before the car rolled to a stop. And just as quickly Matt was over the wall with the fire bottle putting out the fire allowing the driver to get out safely.

Our events run flawlessly thanks to all our chairpeople, stewards, the Race Planning Committee, and all our volunteers. And the competitors who race with us do take notice. So come out, join in the fun, maybe even get out there on station with Matt or any of our experienced officials and see what the excitement is all about.

To subscribe to At Speed via email, please send an email to [SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net](mailto:SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net).

*Your Humble  
Scribe,  
Tom Smith*



## Who We Are

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### Board of Directors

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Regional Executive	Jim Tornetta	609 893 5701	re@sjr-scca.org
Assistant R.E.	J.D. King	856 694 5012	assistre@sjr-scca.org
Secretary	Sue King	856 629 4966	secretary@sjr-scca.org
Treasurer	Craig Robson		treasurer@sjr-scca.org
Membership	Meg Meyer	609 835 4450	membership@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Bob Childress		Atlarge4@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Mike Allenbaugh	609 838 2800	Atlarge2@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Brian Heun	609 926 4842	Atlarge3@sjr-scca.org
At Large	Jim Wakeman	856 228 9249	Atlarge1@sjr-scca.org

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### Specialty Chiefs

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Membership and Competition	Meg Meyer	609 835 4450	membership@sjr-scca.org
Licensing	Terry Hanushek		licensing@sjr-scca.org
Merchandise	Jim Tornetta	609 893 5701	
Race Chair	J.D. King	856 694 5012	racechair@sjr-scca.org
Rally Chair	Jim Wakeman	856 228 9249	rallychair@sjr-scca.org
Solo Co-Chair	Ahren Ciotti		solochair@sjr-scca.org
Solo Co-Chair	Craig Robson		solochair@sjr-scca.org
Flagging and Communication	Dan Zane	609 351 3973	flagging@sjr-scca.org
Scrutineer	Volunteer Needed!!		
Starter	David Teal	610 566 4795	start@sjr-scca.org
Grid	Bill Von Suskil		grid@sjr-scca.org
Sound	Alex Collins	856 983 2825	sound@sjr-scca.org
Registration	Val Heun	609 926 4842	registration@sjr-scca.com
Emergency Vehicles	Ray M and Sue Marshall	302 235 1731	ev@sjr-scca.org
Timing and Scoring	Jack Oliver	856 667 2858	timing@sjr-scca.org
Webmaster	Meg Meyer		webmaster@sjr-scca.org

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South Jersey Region website: [www.sjr-scca.org](http://www.sjr-scca.org)

New Jersey Road Racing Series: [www.njrns.com](http://www.njrns.com)

At Speed: [SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net](mailto:SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net) editor Tom Smith

## Autocross Corner

Note the new location for our SJR SCCA Solo II events: 1155 S Black Horse Pike, Williamstown NJ 08094 --- the lot is behind a CVS. The next events are July 25 and August 15.

All Autocross information --- schedule, location, registration, results, great pictures and video, and all the information needed for new participants, are available at [www.sjr-scca.org/solo](http://www.sjr-scca.org/solo) and the email is [solochair@sjr-scca.org](mailto:solochair@sjr-scca.org).

<Editor's Note: I'd like to expand At Speed to include more Solo II coverage, so if you'd like to volunteer to write event reports and/or submit pictures for At Speed, please email [SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net](mailto:SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net)>

## Rally On

For Rally enthusiasts, and for those who have always been curious wanting to give it a try, there is a very special two-rally weekend coming up Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>!

The Road Runner Car Rally will be held on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Read The Fantastic Manual Rally will be held on Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>. Both events start and finish at J G Cook's Carolina Blue Restaurant, 692 Lambs Road, Pitman NJ 08071, with registration at 10:00 am and first car off at 11:16.

Rallymaster Jim Wakemen Sr ([Jwakemen43@aol.com](mailto:Jwakemen43@aol.com) or 856 228 9249) works hard to make these fun events for everyone, experienced or novice. You can even organize your own 'special awards' group --- for your family, your friends, your co-workers, your club, your favorite make of car --- and compete amongst yourselves for bragging rights!

Jim's primer of rallying (go to [www.sjr-scca.org](http://www.sjr-scca.org), click on the Rally link, and you can read all about rallying, about these two events, and so forth) is a thing of beauty. Here are some quotes:

*"Are you a car enthusiast? Do you enjoy driving your car? Do you like to drive on back country roads? Do you like to meet people? Do you hate driving in traffic? Then a car rally is for you! A car rally is a car contest that is legally held on public roads that are the roads less traveled. You will be surprised how many back roads still exist in South Jersey. Any two people can enter as a team made up of a driver and a navigator. At the start, each rally team is given a set of route instructions to follow. Average speeds that are slightly below the speed limits will be in the instructions. Rally cars are space in one minute intervals. Along the way you will find secretly located checkpoints. The rally teams that find the checkpoints and arrive most closely to the perfect time will be the winners.*

*Our rallies include two types of rallies in one event. Long before rally day, the rallymaster goes out into the country to select the roads to be used and the instructions to be followed. He then measures the mileage with a special odometer that is accurate to the .001 mile. He calculates the official time for each secret checkpoint. The first type of rally is called a Tour Rally, where the route instructions are relatively straightforward and easy to follow, but where the challenge is to stay on time --- to cross each secret checkpoint as close to the official time as possible. The second type of rally is called a Course Rally for those who like an additional challenge. Course Rallies have some tricky instructions known as traps. These instructions need to be interpreted correctly in order to arrive on time --- perfect for those who love puzzles, games, or mysteries!"*

And no SCCA event would be complete without ending the day with food and drink (hence the finish at J G Cook's!) to exchange war stories or outright lies, sharing in the fellowship of a fun day. Visit the Rally section at [www.sjr-scca.org](http://www.sjr-scca.org) and contact Jim to join in the fun.

## *The Inaugural 'Devil In The Dark' 12-hour*

Epic. Simply epic. The only way to describe it. The dry stuff: 31 cars entered the inaugural Devil In The Dark 12-hour endurance race at NJMP's Thunderbolt circuit. 29 cars took the green flag. 25 completed the 12 hours. An ITE Bimmershop BMW completed 415 laps or over 900 miles averaging 77.7 mph for the 12 hours to take the overall win. Behind them, the battles for class and overall positions were hotly contested right up to the checkered flag.

But that doesn't even begin to describe it. On an extremely hot and humid day, 29 cars and teams took the green flag with dreams of victory, of course, but quietly simply hoping to survive to see the checker. There were many folks --- drivers and crew alike --- who had never done an endurance race before. Heck, there were team members who had never even been to a race before!

Over the 12 hours, teams gelled, executing pit stops and repairs; drivers found out what they were made of during repeated 2 hour stints in extreme heat; friends and families supported the drivers and teams running errands for food, for fuel, for water and cold towels to help overheated drivers. Race officials and volunteers also endured – some working the entire 12 hours without a break.

And the competition was fierce throughout the field for overall and class positions. There was simply no letting up. Hundreds of people focused on their jobs as the race continued unabated.

There are no words to describe, and no experience like it, to see everyone involved on pit wall looking down the front straight at midnight watching their car take the checkered flag. An epic day of teamwork and competition, followed by the happiest podium celebrations imaginable. Thanks NJMP and South Jersey Region for making it possible.



*Two masked crew members preparing for a night time pit stop. Hundreds of people invested thousands of hours to get the cars on track and to be part of the competition. This endurance race was truly a team competition – just an extra 90 seconds in the pits would cost you a lap on track! Photo courtesy of Janice Hainsworth*

## Scenes from the 12-Hour



*Above: While volunteering in Emergency Services, Ray Maliszewski took some amazing night shots looking back down the front straight and pit lane from aboard a rescue vehicle.*

*Below: Janice Hainsworth captured the field on grid prior to the start.*



## *More Race Results*

The Third Annual Lightning Challenge was held on NJMP's Lightning circuit July 9-11. After a dry test day on Friday, storms moved in for Saturday's qualifying sessions and qualifying races resulting in a mostly wet day, which always adds to the excitement and challenge. Race day Sunday was sunny and hot. As usual, the race organizers, officials, and volunteers did a superb job running a flawless event. And, as usual, our South Jersey Region drivers continue to impress.

Brian Bates won in T1 with his Corvette, and Tim Fox brought his beautiful Aston Martin out and established a new track record for the ST class. Frank Sanchez brought his H100 Vitamin Water SPU car out, and stuck it up there battling for overall position with the big bore GT1 cars. Joe Volpe finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in GT1 in his gorgeous vintage NJMP Ford Mustang.

In SSM, Michael Lamaina and Pete Maerz took their Miata's to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place in the competitive large field.

JD King won overall in the non-wing Formula car group in his Club Ford, entertaining and impressing everyone with his performance in both the dry and the wet. Jay Beckley set the pace in F500.

Chris Dryden set a new track record in less than ideal track conditions in his beautiful SSB Miata, with Robert and Jason Marx running 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively in an unusually tough ITA field which was bested by DC Region legend Ed York.

In SRF, our Viren Kapadia took the victory, with brothers Steve and Mike Thomas continuing to impress with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place finishes. Pete Lamaina was 12<sup>th</sup>.

In the ultra competitive Spec Miata class, Tosh Desai pushed hard for victory coming up just short in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Mike Lamaina delivered an awesome 5<sup>th</sup> place result.

The abnormally large ITS field was filled with South Jersey drivers. John Hainsworth finished 2<sup>nd</sup> after a tough battle all race, brothers James and Robert Benson finished 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and father/son John Redden and John Redden III finished 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Pete Padley was 13<sup>th</sup>.

In the Wings and Things field, we were pleased to see brothers Ivin and Pete Seabrook out for their first races! Sadly, Pete's Formula B car broke early in the race but he promises to be back soon, and Ivin did a great job finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and in class in his Formula B. Your humble scribe was privileged to gain the overall and class win.

At the Double National at Watkins Glen our Matthew DiRenzo continued his winning ways with two class and overall victories. Mike Allenbaugh and Brian Heun took their F500's up to measure themselves against the best in the nation, with Mike earning a 9<sup>th</sup> and a 5<sup>th</sup> and Brian a pair of 10<sup>th</sup> place finishes. I doubt there were any bigger smiles in the paddock at The Glen than the Allenbaugh/Heun contingent, always the most gracious and fun-loving competitors. Jim Boggs brought his Spec Racer Ford out and finished 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and Lee Brahlin brought out his C Sports Racer and got a 3<sup>rd</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Well done everyone!

## Lightning Up

- Check out Geoffrey Hall's pictures at [www.hotlapphoto.zenfolio.com](http://www.hotlapphoto.zenfolio.com). Geoffrey is at all our events shooting pictures and helping everyone out wherever he can. If you see a picture you like, support him with a purchase, and say Hi when you see him at the next event.
- We have a LOT of racing upcoming. The major professional ARCA weekend is August 13-15, with the ProIT series as the featured support race! Our Thunderbolt Regional is August 20-22. Please come out to support these events, and consider volunteering in one of the specialties. In particular, contact Dan Zane, our Flagging and Communications chief, if you'd like to get close to the action and work a corner station, including for the ARCA race! Dan's contact information is on Page 2
- NEWSFLASH – HOT OFF THE PRESS! Our region has hit an important membership milestone. For the first time in our history, we now have over 400 members! In the past 2 years our membership has doubled. Thanks to everyone for joining in the excitement of our new tracks, and all of our motorsports related programs. Now let's get everyone involved supporting our events across all our programs, and involved in the various specialties which make all of this possible!



**Tim Stehm**  
**ASE Master Technician**  
1601 Cinnaminson Ave.  
Cinnaminson  
New Jersey 08077

**856-314-8005**  
[www.stehmsautorepair.com](http://www.stehmsautorepair.com)



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

Web site: [www.sjr-scca.org](http://www.sjr-scca.org)

Autocross July 25 and August 15

Member meeting: August 11, Uno Chicago  
Grill, Route 73 Maple Shade.

ARCA and ProIT at NJMP August 13-15

Thunderbolt Regional August 20-22.

Road Runner Rally August 7

Read the Fantastic Manual Rally August 8



**SOUTH JERSEY REGION SCCA  
C/O JD KING  
759 STANTON AVE.  
FRANKLINVILLE, NJ 08322**