

At@Speed



www.sjr-scca.org

Nov/Dec 2010

SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net

Home for the Holidays

Some of you may remember a former (and hopefully someday a returning) member of the South Jersey Region SCCA, Joe Hines. Joe was a tremendous help and teammate when I started racing, and not only was he a great mechanic he was also fond of cooking. One evening at Watkins Glen he was about to barbeque a nice dinner at our paddock when he sent me on a journey around the garage area to find some foam plates. After 15 minutes or so of asking fellow competitors with no success (I'm certain if I needed a fuel pump for a Cortina engine I would have found one, but no foam plates), and wondering why I had to get foam plates when we had perfectly good paper plates to use, I got bored with the search. I reported back to Joe that I couldn't find any, and asked why it mattered anyway since we had these other plates to use. Without missing a beat, Joe deadpanned 'there's no plates like foam for the hollandaise ...'. To this day, I cannot get that silly joke out of my head (and now, sadly, neither may you), nor can I believe that I spent 15 minutes of my life searching around the garage at Watkins Glen as a set up to one of the worst punch lines extant.

Assuming that this poor humor has not caused you to toss away At Speed already, there is plenty of good stuff to read inside.

Mark your calendar for Saturday January 22, 2011 for our banquet, read a bit more about it inside, and look for the official mailing upcoming in December.

Racing Drivers are required to send their results to SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net so the driver awards committee (a highly secret and anonymous committee of awards-exempt drivers JD King, Chris Dryden and I, and Region Elders code-named Teal and Hanushek). Simply indicate your name, brief summary of 2010 results (event, class, position), any highlights good or bad you may want to share,

and indicate if you are 'rookie eligible' (meaning that you began SCCA racing in 2009 or 2010). I sent an email requesting same, but we don't have all the correct email addresses for our drivers and we don't want anyone to be left out of consideration or the fun at the banquet.

Full details of the Jersey Road Racing Classic (JRRC) held on New Jersey Motorsports Park's Lightning Circuit in October are inside, but I have to share with you a special memory. The Friday prior was an NJMP member day, and my Formula B compatriots Pete and Ivin Seabrook were kind enough to invite me as their guest to warm up for the weekend. Sharing the track with us in the open wheel group on this special day were no less than six vintage F1 cars. See below, these are cars with serious provenance. I will never forget the experience of being passed by the very cars that I dreamed of as a child, driving my little Formula B car as hard as I could to stay with them even if just for a couple precious corners to savor the moment.

Thanks to Val Heun for this very special picture from the paddock at Lightning (and Val, please have Meg post it at www.sjr-scca.org so everyone can see it with full quality).

Your Humble Scribe,
Tom Smith
SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net



Who We Are

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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

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. Complete results for all 2010 events, and 2010 class standings, are now available at www.sjr-scca.org/solo.html .

The 2010 NJMP Winter Solo Series dates have been announced. Four events will comprise the Winter Series:

- December 4, 2010
- January 15, 2011
- February 5, 2011
- March 5, 2011

Come out and join in the fun. Whether you are a new-comer, or an experienced autocrosser, you can find all the information you need at www.sjr-scca.org and click on the Solo link.



*Our own Jack Oliver taking part in Winter Series 2009/2010. Photo courtesy of Ahren Ciotti
www.ciottiindustries.com/gallery*

Rally On

Your humble scribe is embarrassed to say that this issue of At Speed is late, so the incredibly fun and challenging Pine Barrens Express Rally is being held --- today --- Saturday November 20, 2010, as I sit here preparing At Speed. Fortunately our lovely and talented webmaster Meg Meyer sent an email blast out to everyone ahead of time reminding them of the event, including a great video which is available at www.sjr-scca.org using the Rally link. Let's look forward to a full report from Jim Wakemen on the Pine Barrens Express and other rally news in the next issue of At Speed.

October 16th and 17th held the double-rally weekend, 'Witch Way Is Under The Limit 2 and 3'. On Saturday, 16 drivers and navigators took part in the competition. In the Equipped Class, the team of Jack von Kaenel and Jim Friedman took a total of only 11 penalty points across the 10 checkpoints to with in Equipped, an astonishing performance.

But wait, even more staggering were Bruce Gezon and Steve Gaddy in the Limited Class, perfect on 7 of the 10 checkpoints taking a total of only 6 penalty points for the event. That's mind-boggling precision. For those who are not familiar with rally scoring, much like that incredibly annoying game some call 'Golf' where you chase a little white ball through woods surrounded by freshly mown grass called 'fairways' where you park your 'golf cart' before heading into the woods to find your ball, the lower score is better in Rallying as well. There were perfectly respectable teams with hundreds, even thousands of points. Amazing job at the pointy end of the stick on Saturday.

The hearty souls returned on Sunday for a go at the 8 checkpoints making up the Witch Way Is Under The Limit 3 rally, and once again Bruce and Steve led the way taking only 7 penalty points.

The 2010 Jersey Road Racing Classic

157 entrants took part in the third annual 'Jerk' --- the Jersey Road Racing Class (JRRC). With each group having 3 races over 2 days, it was an action packed weekend with good weather and great racing. Finishing position the prior race dictated start position in the next race, and the final race on Sunday for each group was dubbed 'The Classic' and settled all the bragging rights.

The 21 car Spec Racer Ford group saw no less than 8 South Jersey Region members take part. After hard-fought battles all weekend, our 2009 Driver of the Year Jim Boggs bested the SJR contingent with a 4th, followed closely by Steve Thomas in 5th, Viren Kapadia in 6th, Kyle Robertson in 9th, Pete Lamaina in 10th, Mike Thomas in 12th, Charle Turano in 13th, and Charlie Greenhaus in 20th after having run much higher earlier in the weekend.

Our lone entrant in Spec Miata was Michael Lamaina who brought home a very respectable 6th in The Classic.

In the big IT group, our 2009 Rookie of the Year John Hainsworth fought back and forth for the lead all weekend with his Ridgespeed racing teammate, NNJR's Matt Rooke, finishing 2nd just behind Matt in The Classic and taking fastest lap. Behind him our Eric King finished 7th and John Redden 11th, with son John Redden III frustrated with car problems in The Classic after having run well in the top 10 earlier in the weekend.

In the big bore event, Guy Lamon brought home his GT-1 car in 2nd, Brian Bates won T1, Benny Sorbello took the SPO honors and Robert Blough the ITE lead.

In SSM, Pete Maerz and Michael Lamaina battled hard for the lead and brought it home 2nd and 3rd respectively for our region, with AJ Gillum finishing 6th. And in a return to racing we have all wanted to see, John Morris came back after a long illness, driving Eric King's ITS Mazda in the STU class, and what a return it was as he ended the weekend matching Eric's times. A big-hearted move by Eric to give John a chance to race again, and an even bigger-hearted drive by John as he returned to the cockpit.

The non-winged open wheel group produced fabulous racing to watch, and you simply couldn't count the number of passes which took place throughout each race. Anytime JD King's on the track a year's worth of passing takes place in a single race. In their Classic race, JD ended up 3rd in Club Ford after astonishing battles all weekend, Mike Allenbaugh was 2nd in F500, with Brian Heun 4th, Jay Beckley 6th, and Don Colanero 7th. Ed Del Monico was out there on Saturday in his Club Ford but packed it up early as he was recovering from an illness.

In the small bore race there was a lot of attrition during the weekend, including Pete Doane who was unable to start The Classic. Chris Dryden, however, established a new track record in SSB winning handily, with Robert Marx 3rd in ITA, and David Teal back on track in Meg's ITC Honda.

The weekend ended with the 'Wings and Things' group of winged formula cars and sports racers. Lee Brahin set a new track record in CSR on his way to overall victory, and yours truly was the only surviving Formula B at the end of the weekend with Pete Seabrook having succumbed to an engine problem on Friday and Ivin Seabrook taken out by an overly aggressive lapped car in race two.



Photos Courtesy of Geoffrey Hall, www.hotlapphoto.com. The start of an IT race, and a rare cutaway look at a GT-1 Corvette --- someone came knockin' on his door evidently!

From behind the lens...

Geoffrey Hall

After three years of photographing the action at New Jersey Motorsports Park, I think it's safe to say that I have an interesting perspective on motorsports in general and club racing in particular. I guess I inherited an attraction for auto racing from my father watching NASCAR and Indy cars (back when USAC was their sanctioning body) on television and his yearly pilgrimage to Indianapolis for the "500". I remember taking my first racing pictures from the stands at turn 3 at with the family Polaroid. One of these days I will have to see if I can find those pictures. So when NJMP opened in the summer of 2008, it was an opportunity for me to renew my interest in motorsports and bring a renewed and much needed focus to my photography.

From the start the first thing I recognized was what a welcoming place the paddock was especially during club racing weekends. One of the first people I met from the SCCA was Darrell Anthony, then Regional Executive of the Northern New Jersey Region of the SCCA, at an event at Lightning during a lunch break. He noticed my camera and equipment and was genuinely excited that someone was there taking pictures and documenting the weekend. He introduced me to a few of the drivers over the next few events and at the end of the year was invited to NNJR's awards banquet. Later I joined the club and became a member in the South Jersey Region where the open door atmosphere continued. Eventually J.D. King "recruited" me to become a race host.

JD: We trying this new thing of a race host to kind of help out with things around the track during race weekends. You really know your way around the place, so here's a [bright orange] hat to identify you when you're here.

GH: Okay? I guess...

Well to be honest, it has been pretty cool. And it has been a lot like an extended family.

Even among the professional teams the atmosphere was just as welcoming. Earlier this season I attended TRG's "Grand Opening and Track Day" promotion as the first step to them building an east coast headquarters and technology center on the grounds of NJMP. I got the chance to speak briefly with team owner Kevin Buckler and drivers Andy Lally and Spencer Pumpelly. Having Andy and Spencer as your driving coaches... how cool is that!!! At the end of my time there I presented Mr. Buckler with a disk containing photographs I had taken the previous year at the ARCA event. For which I received a gift bag that included a bottle from the Adobe Winery. Quite unexpected!! TRG will be my "home team" for sure. And it helps that they are a Porsche shop. "Is there really any other???"

So I find myself at the end of a third season of racing at our **own** New Jersey Motorsports Park. And I think it is appropriate to in some way claim some ownership since in some way we have all contributed to it's success to date. And I'm sure that success will continue through all out contributions. I have met a great many good people and made some friends along the way. And eventually I presume I will end up on the track in some way. At which point I will have an interesting dilemma. How to drive flat out coming out lightbulb while getting a picture of it at the same time. I guess I'll have to invoke the Sci-Fi side of my persona and find a way to clone myself. Something for a future article I guess. I look forward to what 2011 will bring.



Thunderbolts

Our **Annual Awards** banquet will be Saturday, January 22, 2011, at the Officer's Club at New Jersey Motorsports Park, which is the big hangar building in the paddock of the Thunderbolt track. Please mark the date down now and look for a separately mailing with the complete information and registration.

Just as at our last banquet, we'll be honoring not just our South Jersey Region Worker, Autocross, Road Racing, and club awards, but we'll also have New Jersey Road Racing Series and ProIT honorees with us as well.

And once again, the region is graciously subsidizing the cost of the banquet, so expect it to be only \$25 per person with great food, free beer and wine, and a cash bar for all else.

And we're hoping this year for a little less snow on the day of the event. Last year saw people abandoning their cars trying to get over the bridge and hoofing it over to the warmth and food and beverages in the Officer's Club.

South Jersey Region lost another valued member. **Christine Fox** (pictured holding the checkered flag at Thunderbolt this summer), who lived in Gaithersburg, Maryland but who chose South Jersey as her home region of record, collapsed after her race at Summit Point in October, and passed away. Meg Meyer wrote 'We will all miss her smiling face, fast driving, and wonderful disposition. Our condolences to her family, friends, and everyone in her extended SCCA family. She will be greatly missed.'



Our **Membership Tally** stands at 384 as of the end of October. While this is down from our high during the season of just over 400, there is a normal cycle to memberships. We have grown a lot since NJMP opened, particularly in the area of licensed road race drivers. We want to see consistent strong growth along all areas of our membership --- for all our events, racing, autocross, and rally, and I'd ask each of you to pay particular attention to growing our ranks across all our volunteer specialties, those who serve as race officials and make our events possible. Our newest member as of the last report holds member number 425094: Ricardo Sayles Jr of Manahawkin. Our longest-tenured member is the ever-young John Bornholdt, with SCCA member number 1586. 1586! Wow, talk about being on the scene to build the SCCA! Ricardo, 423,000+ members later, come on down to NJMP some race weekend to meet Johnny B up in the Stewards tower! A close second to John is Jim Briody, member number 1866, and Jim is still racing competitively internationally at famous circuits Spa, Nurburgring, Dubai. Great stuff.

For Sale: Formula B 'Photon', the original FB car built by Browns Lane and RaceComposites LTD and made famous by Jeremy Hill. 3 races on George Dean Racing Suzuki GSXR-1000 engine, 176hp, 1000 lbs with driver. Speed and provenance. See all information on www.apexspeed.com in the Formula B forum For Sale area. Knows its way around NJMP, holds FB record on both tracks. Priced to sell. Check out the info on apexspeed.com or email me at SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net.



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

Web site: www.sjr-scca.org

Autocross December 4

Member meeting: December 8, Uno Chicago Grill, Route 73 Maple Shade.

Annual Banquet: January 22, 2011, Officer's Club at New Jersey Motorsports Park



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