

At@Speed

www.sjr-scca.org

Feb/Mar 2011

SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net

Let the Year Begin

Welcome to 2011.

By the normal, kind of boring, calendar, the year began a while ago, somewhere around 1/1/11. Or so I'm told. I'm new here.

Not very clever, is it?

Consider instead that Racing Eve was January 22 at the Officer's Club at New Jersey Motorsports Park where the combined South Jersey Region, New Jersey Road Racing Series, and ProIT Series annual banquets (banquae?) were held.

And Racing New Year was celebrated with the green flag of the 24 Hours of Daytona on January 29.

On January 22nd we got together on a truly cold winter's night inside the empty track to relieve ourselves from winter blah's, to remember and celebrate the racing season that was 2010, and to look in each other's eyes to get the fire in the belly going for our 2011 racing plans.

On January 29th the green flag waved over the Rolex 24 at Daytona. These cars and drivers will be at our track, in our backyard on the Thunderbolt Circuit at New Jersey Motorsports Park July 22-24. And we will be there for that, and so much more.

Enjoying the two fantastic circuits at all racing events as crew, drivers, officials, volunteers, spectators, spanning everything from Drivers School, Regionals, National, Pro's, Rallycross.

Enjoying our popular Autocross and Rally programs accessible for all drivers and cars.

Enjoying the love of motorsport, and the fellowship of those who share that devotion.

Randy Pobst is a 4 time (and the current) World Challenge Champion, and a columnist in SportsCar magazine. His February 2011 SportsCar column, Pobst Position, had a quote worth sharing, as he revisited his grassroots racing roots in some recent SCCA events:

"Spoiled rotten pro driver that I have become these last couple of decades, the realization slapped me right in the face. This is hard work ... For every car that pulls onto pit lane, there have been rivers of blood, sweat and tears shed. I salute you, racers ... I salute your spirit, your desire ... and your insanity."

Not to put words in Randy's mouth, but by racers he means all of you. This isn't USA Today, read by the huddled masses. If you are reading this, you're a racer.

Read inside, and make a Racing New Years list of what you are going to do in 2011.

Your Humble Scribe,
Tom Smith
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Time Travel: 1994

Who We Are

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

New Jersey Road Racing Series: www.njrns.com

At Speed: SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net editor Tom Smith

Autocross Corner

There are still a couple of events left in the winter autocross series held in the paddock of New Jersey Motorsports Park:

- February 6, 2011
- March 5, 2011

Go to www.sjr-scca.org and click on the Solo link for more information.

And check out the results from the December and January events. You'll be amazed at the diversity of vehicles competing in Solo II aka Autocross events. And you'll smile when you see how well Matt Tornetta does in his Volvo station wagon – part commuter vehicle, part RV for overnight stays on our race weekends, and surprisingly quick through the autocross courses. I heard a rumor that Matt will be taking to the big tracks to get his racing license in 2011.

Rally On

The 2011 South Jersey Region Road Rally Schedule is now available, and it is a great one.

- 3/26/11: March Lamb Road Rally --- Newark, DE
- 3/27/11: Oldies But Goodies RoadRally --- Pitman, NJ
- 4/17/11: Spring Fling RoadRally --- New Britain, PA
- 6/12/11: Going Places in Salem RoadRally --- Pitman, NJ
- 9/25/11: Stay to the Left, Stay to the Right 3 RoadRally --- Pitman, NJ
- 11/19/11: Pine Barrens Express --- near the Jersey Devil's summer home in Tom's River

There are tremendous resources for people interested in learning more about Road Rallies on our web site at www.sjr-scca.org/rally. It is truly accessible to everyone --- street cars on regular roads at or below posted speeds following challenging and puzzling route instructions rewarded for precision and cleverness.

The March double weekend of rallies is worth highlighting. The March Lamb XIV Rally on Saturday March 26th. This is a joint event between the Brandywine Motorsport Club and the South Jersey Region SCCA. The March Lamb automotive road rally traverses roads through Cecil County Maryland, Chester County Pennsylvania, and New Castle County Delaware. As with all rallies, average speeds are at or below the posted limits. A challenge will be offered in most legs of the rally to correctly apply the rules of the rally. The March Lamb begins with Registration at 10:30 am, at the Park-N-Ride lot ½ mile north of Exit 1/I-95 and State Route 896 in Newark, Delaware, at the intersection of SR 896 and SR 4. The finish will be at Matilda's Restaurant, about ¼ mile from the start location. Note: failure to find the start and finish locations is detrimental to your rally score! First car hits the road at noon. The registrar is Jim Irons, 302 376 8688 or captjti@verizon.net, and the rallymaster is Dave Teter 302 368 4210 or teter@udel.edu.

The Oldies But Goodies Car Rally on Sunday March 27th is the perfect antidote for those who are allergic to states other than New Jersey, or who simply need another rally fix after the March Lamb! Registration opens at 10am with first car off at 11:16am, and the rally headquarters (registration, start, finish, and post-rally tall tales) will be J G Cook's Carolina Blue Restaurant, 692 Lambs Road, Pitman NJ. The rallymaster and registrar is Jim Wakemen Sr., 856 228 9249, or Jwakemen43@aol.com.

Both events are mainstays of the local rally calendar, and worth experiencing for both veteran rallyists and newcomers alike.

2011 Road Racing Schedule

This is good. Real good. Time to look over the calendar, to see where the races will fall, to begin to plan, to dream. Soon, the off-season will be over. And we can be happy again, winter over, the first radio call 'Cars on Course'!

We start with our Spring Drivers School March 25-27. Our school is run on the awesome Lightning Circuit, which is perfect for learning in terms of the course layout, safety and runoff, and diversity of challenges it presents to the new or returning driver seeking his or her competition license. In parallel with the drivers school is the opportunity for aspiring race officials and volunteer workers to learn the tricks of a new trade gaining experience alongside the best of the best in terms of race specialty experience.

While on the subject of the drivers school, we are pleased to announce the return of the Dave Rose Memorial Driver Scholarship. Dave was a great driver, engineer and mechanic, who helped a lot of drivers get started in racing, and whose fellowship was part of our region's fabric. We lost Dave too young at age 36 in 1994. After his death, his parents provided seed money for a driver school scholarship in Dave's name intended to pay the entry fee for someone who brings the same qualities to the club as Dave did. We're resurrecting the Dave Rose Memorial Driver Scholarship for our 2011 spring school. We'll cover your \$425 entry fee --- email us at SJRAtSpeed@comcast.net and tell us what drives you to want to go to drivers school, what you bring to this racing community, and what it means to you. One lucky winner gets his or her entry fee waived.

Then, April 30th, The Devil In The Dark 12-Hour Endurance Race returns to NJMP's Thunderbolt raceway. Noon to midnite. It's crazy. Drivers, cars, crews, workers, spectators wanted. Be there, you don't want to miss this one.

Here's a quick snapshot of some important dates:

- *March 25-27* Drivers School, Lightning circuit
- *April 30* The Devil In The Dark 12 – hour enduro, Thunderbolt circuit
- *May 7-8* Pocono Double Regional and ProIT, Pocono PA
- *May 21-22* ARCA at NJMP, plus ProIT?!
- *May 28-30* Vintage weekend at NJMP
- *June 4-5* SCCA National plus ProIT, Thunderbolt circuit
- *June 25-26* SCCA Regional plus ProIT, Lightning circuit
- *July 23-24* GrandAm Pro weekend at NJMP
- *August 13-14* Pocono Nationals, Pocono PA
- *August 20-21* SCCA Regional, Thunderbolt circuit
- *October 22-23* Jersey Road Racing Classic (The Jerk), Lightning Circuit
- *October 29-30* Pro RallyCross

Come and join in the fun as a driver or worker participant, or as a spectator. To paraphrase the old farmer's saying about making hay: "Make racing while the sun shines, soon it will be winter."

2010 Awards Banquet

It was eerie. Not the banquet. That part was cool.

Approaching New Jersey Motorsports Park in the dead of winter. First the Light Bulb section of Lightning, and peering over at it and the main straight heading down Route 555 to the main gate. Piles of snow, the drainage reservoir frozen. So different, and so missed during the long off-season. The sun was just setting. I watched it set from the inside of Thunderbolt Turn 1.

On January 22nd our 2010 Awards Banquet was held at the Officer's Club at NJMP, a combined South Jersey Region SCCA, New Jersey Road Racing Series, and ProIT annual event. The Officer's Club has a good space well suited for the size and type of event, the food and service were very pleasant indeed, and our folks organizing it did their normal great job. As smooth as a race weekend. And no car to tech.

The class champions in ProIT, the New Jersey Road Racing Series (NJRRS), Solo II (Autocross), and Rally were all honored and awarded their trophies and prizes. Folks, there was some serious talent in the room. We need a go-kart outing for everyone when the weather is warmer. The competition would be insane. You know – social, low key, just for fun. Yeah, right. Until the green flag.

After the class champions presentations, we moved on to the special awards.

Solo II Rookie of the Year Frank Santiago, recognized for his incredible passion to listen, learn and achieve results.

Solo II Driver of the Year Rob Provost, recognized for laying down the line in 2010.

Solo II Worker of the Year Craig Robson, recognized for his season's contributions in a surprise-that-almost-wasn't moment.

As we shifted into high gear, we completed our lap of the awards circuit with the road racing worker and driver awards. First, the folks who make it all possible, the workers of the year in each of our specialties:

- *Start:* Rocco Trapani
- *Pit:* Bart Carlevaro
- *Timing and Scoring:* Max King
- *Registration:* Kate Yeager
- *Flagging and Communication:* George Zola
- *Grid:* Kevin Bailey
- *Tech:* Phil Tomeo
- *Sound:* Alex Collins

The worker recognitions culminated in the Regional Executive's Award to Keith Zane. Keith and all of our volunteers deserve our thanks for a job very, very well done.

It is indeed impressive – incredible in how much work it is to run a successful race weekend, and amazing in how well executed it is by all who dedicate their time, passion and talents.

Crossing the finish line, we ended with the South Jersey Region road racing driver awards.

Hardship Driver (aka The Murphy Mug): Eric King. @#\$% happens. And unfortunately, it happened to him in 2010. But he persevered and has a great 2011 season in the works. Editor's Note: Eric couldn't make the banquet. Did, coincidentally, something go wrong?

Dave Rose Sportsman: Meg Meyer. The Dave Rose award honors those who, like Davey, are great drivers, and give of themselves so that others can race.

Stevenson-Woods: Jim Boggs. This award honors a driver who competes like a champion and gives back to our club.

2010 Awards Banquet

Rookie of the Year: Forrest Hull.
Forrest, an affable 17-year-old, ran Formula Ford Nationals all year, winning once, finishing 7th in the legendary June Sprints, and earning good results in every race. Forrest will be running the 2011 FF1600 Pro series.

Driver of the Year: Matthew DiRenzo.
Matthew was the 2010 S2000 National Champion, claiming victory in every race

entered in 2011, and winning the SCCA RunOffs, the gold medal in motorsport's Olympics, and the first ever from this region.

Congratulations to Matthew and his family.

Thanks to the Zane Family Culinary and PhotoTechnique Studios, we have a couple banquet pictures including the Solo II and Road Racing Worker award honorees.



Thunderbolts

Steve Thomas drew 3rd in the National Membership Drive prize drawing. A random drawing was held among all those nationwide who signed up new SCCA members.

And welcome to new members Leslie and William Atherholt, Ralph Tommaso, Ricardo Sayles, Paul McIsaac, and Michael Lobascio who joined in the past couple of months.

Our membership tally stands at 371, down but a normal season effect, and our growth record for the past couple of years is still very strong.

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

Web site: www.sjr-scca.org

Autocross: Feb 6th and Mar 5th @ NJMP

Member meeting: Feb 9th and Mar 9th @ Uno
Chicago Grill, Route 73 Maple Shade.

ROAD RACING DRIVERS SCHOOL! March
25-27, 2011.



**SOUTH JERSEY REGION SCCA
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