SCCA Launches Track Night in America by Dave Back

As an SCCA member and motorsports enthusiast, we are very aware that our events rely on those who are willing to volunteer their time and effort and I commend all of those who have been so dedicated over the years. While I was working as an automotive technology instructor, I initiated a school motorsports club in an effort to give students exposure to sports car activities, where they could learn and network for further career opportunities and offer support for our SCCA events.



Using your daily driver makes the event very affordable

This was not an easy task to convince the school of the benefits of supporting a motorsports club and I would like to thank everyone who mentored and welcomed the students that participated and acknowledge the efforts put forth by George Bloser of the Philadelphia Region of the SCCA and Sue King of the South Jersey Region of the SCCA who gave the students the recognition and opportunity to become involved.

The SCCA has taken a giant leap forward in support of increasing its membership and participation by initiating a program entitled TRACKNIGHT IN AMERICA, and hosting a dedicated website, tracknightinamerica.com.

The first such TRACKNIGHT IN AMERICA event in the Mid-Atlantic area was held at New Jersey Motorsports Park on Wednesday April 15th and for an initial event, judging by the enthusiasm of the participants, it was a huge success. In reality it's a huge bargain at \$150 for an hour of track time and the

students can use their daily driver street cars which are scrutinized thoroughly before being allowed on track.



What a great way to enjoy your car's potential

The track activities started at 3pm and ran to dusk, with the twenty-two drivers split into three alternating groups, based on the driver's experience. Entry level for those with little or no experience, an intermediate group and an experienced group. The event is conducted as a driver's ed event with passing only permitted with a point-by in a designated area.

Upon the conclusion of each session, the drivers were coached by SCCA officials and given feedback of their driving session. The timing of the event was excellent as those who participated were asked if they would be willing to volunteer for the next weekend's annual Devil in the Dark 12 Hour endurance race.

The SCCA should be commended for initiating such an activity and as the participation increases there are likely procedural refinements that may be needed. In the meanwhile using this as an avenue to recruit new members and increase motorsports participation benefits all of us and the sport.

As we welcome new members who are willing to volunteer, it's imperative to ensure we exercise our most gracious hospitality and show our appreciation by making them feel welcomed and thank them, while recognizing the need for good training with the understanding that they may be likely to make a rookie mistake.

Detailed information is available on the tracknightinamerica.com website.