

Texas Region SCCA

Roundup Newsletter

Where Texas' best amateur drivers race!

JAN-FEB-MAR 2016

<http://www.texascca.org>

Your "REsource"- Bob Neff, Regional Executive

Hello Texas Region!

Wow – 2016! Where did last year go? Seems like just yesterday we were looking forward to the Runoffs and Solo Nationals, and here we are about to embark on a whole new season. There's lots of good stuff to report on from last year, and new things for 2016, so let's get to it.

Region Performance

2015 was a banner year for Texas Region. Our membership grew by 9.2%, significantly more than the National growth rate of 6%, and we're now up to 850 regular members. Just as important, our retention rate was the highest in the country for our region size (Large). And entries in all of our competition specialties continued to grow so our participation rate is excellent. Those are the key areas the Club management focuses on and y'all have come through with exceptional results in all those areas.

In 2015 we provided lots of ways for folks to have fun in cars: 3 Club Races including a Super School that added a number of new licensed drivers to our program, 5 Road Rally events (that would have been six except for some weather that was unusual even for Texas), 10 Solo events including one of the most successful ProSolo events ever held in Texas (way to go Solo Board!), and 2 Club Trials events held in conjunction with our Club Race program that provided a terrific opportunity for track competition just shy of actual wheel-to-wheel racing. In addition we supported 7 of the new Track Night in America events, with a total of 297 entries most of whom had never had prior exposure to SCCA, and this resulted in adding more than 15 new regular members to the Region. In fact our performance was so exceptional that at the 2016 SCCA National Convention, Texas Region was recognized as **Region of the Year for 2015!** What a terrific honor, and an acknowledgement of all the hard work and dedication of all the event organizers and competitors who made our events so successful – THANKS to all of you for that involvement and commitment to our Club!

Continued Program Expansion in 2016

You'll read more details about specific events in this issue of RoundUp, which by the way is due in great measure to our new Newsletter Editor – India Bounds. She's a Texas transplant like many of us but brings a level of energy and enthusiasm as big as Texas and we're very fortunate to have her.



For 2016 we're continuing to expand our program offerings. Our Time Trials program is expanding to offer stand-alone events (May 8 and June 12) that will enable us to incorporate PDX/mentored track time along with our very popular Club Trials competition so that we can bring new blood into the sport.

I'm extremely pleased to report that we're finally adding the Street Survival teen driving program to our event schedule. This program, which teaches young drivers how to cope with everyday driving challenges, is one of the ways that we can all give back to our community. The Street Survival program literally saves lives and I'm so excited that we'll be offering three of these events in 2016, the first coming soon on February 20 at Lone Star Park. If you'd like to participate in this very worthwhile effort, Sam Graff is our Street Survival program coordinator (thanks Sam!!!!) and he'd be happy to hear from you.

So that's it for now. Until next time, thanks for your attention and most of all thanks for your continuing support for Texas Region SCCA!

Bob Neff, Regional Executive

Something for Everyone at the Winter Festival!

The SCCA Winter Festival, is always a great way to start out the New Year. This unique event offers something for almost everyone interested in motorsports. The SCCA Winter Festival combines Club Trials, Driver School, and a Double Regional Race, giving drivers the opportunity to climb several steps in the SCCA ladder to a Full Competition License.

The Club Trials participants getting a taste of what competition is all about. This is the second level of the ladder to Full Competition, and starts to separate cars into competition classes including both street and fully-prepared race cars. While there was no wheel to wheel racing, there was definitely a race against the clock, with the winners being decided by fastest times in their class.

As cars took to the track we all thanked the weather for cooperating, brisk temperatures were accompanied with bright sunny skies. The 1.7 mile CCW road course at Motorsport Ranch, proved to be the ideal venue for this combined event. Eight Driver School Students began their classroom portion of the weekend on

Friday night and took to the track Saturday morning, practicing their skills, (cont'd)



2016 Texas Region SCCA Calendar

Street Survival, Teen Driving

February 20 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lone Star Park, Gate 4

Grand Prairie, TX

Voodoo A Trois, NOLA Motorsports Park, Majors

Tour February 27 - February 28,

NOLA Motorsports Park

Avondale, LA

Solo Autocross School

March 12 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Lone Star Park, Gate 4

Grand Prairie, TX

Solo Event #1, Solo Memorial Event

March 13 7:30 AM - 4:30

PM Lone Star Park, Gate 4

Grand Prairie, TX

Board of Directors / Membership Meeting

March 14 @ 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Fuddruckers, 2001 N. Highway

121 Grapevine, TX

Spaghetti Western Rally

March 26 @ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Ledbetter Home, 6700 Pleasant

Run Colleyville, TX

(cont'd)

in order to compete in their first SCCA race on Sunday.

Congratulations to Adam Cuquet (10th in Open Wheel) and Frank Raso (6th in Closed Wheel), as the highest finishing School Students of the weekend.

The large number of Formula Mazda's based at Motorsport Ranch contributed to something we don't see very often in SCCA, the Open Wheel Group outnumbering the Closed Wheel Group. Saturday's Open Wheel Race finished with John Entwistle taking his first SCCA win in his Formula Mazda, and Jacob Loomis and Jason Bowers right on his tail. When Sunday's race began, Jacob Loomis fought harder for the win and ended up on top, with John Entwistle and Jason Bowers not far behind, to finish up the podium. Texas Autosports/Formula Mazda hosted a dinner party on Saturday night for all the greatly appreciated SCCA workers and fellow racers. SCCA Racing just would not be possible without all the volunteers.

Keith Jensen from Fort Worth, TX took the overall win on Saturday in his T2 Porsche, with Dewayne Garret (GT1) in second and Dennis Tanker (AS) in third. The Closed Wheel Race Group nearly doubled in numbers for Sunday's Race making for some exciting racing. Mixing things up a bit, David Fershtand also from Fort Worth, TX brought his GT1 to the checkered flag in first. Dennis Tanker (AS), and Keith Jensen (SM5) finished out the podium in second and third respectively.

We are all looking forward to this event next year, but mostly are excited about the new racers we will see in the upcoming SCCA events as a result of the Driver School. **It is all about the Competition.**



Exciting 2016 Ahead for PDX and Club Trials!

The Texas Region Club Trials and PDX program is growing quickly and adding fun new events to the schedule throughout 2016. The Club Trials program allows you to participate in learning to drive your car on a real racetrack and testing your growing skills against the clock. This fun program involves several levels of excitement, and the Texas Region is offering several events in 2016.

Following successful events in 2015 involving events at historic Texas World Speedway and Motorsports Ranch in Cresson Texas, The Texas Region has scheduled events throughout 2016. In your street car or your ready-to-run racer, it doesn't matter, you want to race, we want to get you on the track! You supply your end of the bargain by showing up in your car, and we'll supply ours.

For those who have never sat behind the wheel while on a track, the **PDX program** provides instruction in both the classroom and on the track, giving drivers the opportunity to improve their driving skills and increase

their enjoyment of driving their street vehicle. When you're ready to race against the clock, **Club Trials** is ready for you. Club Trials builds on the instruction you received in the PDX classes or other HPDE events while allowing drivers their first chance at competing against time. Competition classes are formed (with both street and fully-prepared racecars), and winners are decided by fastest time around the course.

Come join us in our events through 2016. Events are currently growing and already scheduled for the following:

May 8 – Club Trials and PDX, MSR Cresson 1.7 Clockwise

June 12 – Club Trials and PDX, MSR Cresson 3.1 “The Big Track”

November – Club Trials, TWS



2016 Texas Region SCCA Solo Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
3/12/16	School	Lone Star Park
3/13/16	Event #1	Lone Star Park
4/17/16	Event #2	MS Bus Lot
5/1/16	Event #3	TMS Bus Lot
5/15/16	Event #4	TMS Bus Lot
6/26/16	Event #5	TMS Bus Lot
7/31/16	Event #6	Lone Star Park
8/28/16	Event #7	Lone Star Park
10/9/16	Event #8	TMS Road Course
10/23/16	Event #9	Lone Star Park

Due to site rental for TMS more than doubling for each the bus lot and road course, the Solo BOD has approved new entry fees for 2016.

Following are the fees by site:

SCCA Members- \$40 for Lone Star Park, \$45 for Texas Motor Speedway Bus Lot, and \$55 for Texas Motor Speedway Road Course

Non SCCA Members-\$50 for Lone Star Park, \$55 for Texas Motor Speedway Bus Lot, and \$65 for Texas Motor Speedway Road Course



SOLO Annual Tech Dates

Annual Tech will be available for authorized competitors. The first date will be at the Vorshlag Motorsports Open House and the second date will be at the SCCA Solo School.

Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Vorshlag Motorsports Open House (1703 Capital Avenue, Plano, Texas 75074) from 9am – 4pm.

Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the SCCA Solo School at Lone Star Park (1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie, Texas 75050) from 9am – 4pm.

Notes for Novices

Everyone was a Novice once. This is your opportunity to learn from other drivers. Pick their brains, but please don't eat them. The best thing you can do as a Novice is work on your skills. Leave your car alone for at least a year and improve how you drive it and you will be a better autocrosser for it. If you jump right in and start modifying things you won't ever know what needs improving you, or the car. It will be a continuous guessing game that is difficult to win.

Take advantage of the Novice School. The next one is March 12, 2016. There will be a classroom portion to go over basic terms and techniques. Then you will be paired with an experienced instructor who will help you with car control. Usually, there are about 10 runs during that portion....and time permitting fun runs at the end.

Here is what one former Novice School student had to say about his experience:

...Overall, I learned a lot at the Solo School. One of my favorite things about the school was the ability to get more runs. I ended up with 12 runs that day which is twice as many as you usually get a normal autocross event. In the event the next day, I placed 2nd in the Novice Class and for the 2015 season I finished 2nd in points. On the street, I see benefits from what I learned in car control in bad weather conditions and looking ahead in my street driving to help with accident avoidance. I am definitely coming back next year to see what knowledge I can pick up. I believe that anyone that attends the Solo School will benefit from it.

Colin Elmore NDS 25 2007 Mini Cooper S

You will find that the SCCA Solo community is very open and willing to help. Be sure to ask folks about their cars. Ask to ride along with them on their runs to learn from them, and don't be afraid to ask people to ride with you for pointers. I assure you if you are willing to listen you will learn something new.

From Steve Smith on ride alongs:

"As a novice of 2 years, I'd like to share some things I've learned while racing with the North Texas Region.

(1) Don't be afraid to ask for help.

I've raced in oval track, drag raced, and street raced, and these folks are by far the nicest I've ever been associated with. They want the novice to succeed. I've had countless people give me pointers on driving or on making my car handle better etc. They'll let you ride along, and share their "secrets" with you, because they like to share the fun of this racing experience with others, and pass along the things they've learned. So please don't be afraid to ask to ride along. Ride alongs are a great way to get a feel for the sport.

(2) Ask the seasoned drivers to ride with you. Don't be shy or too proud to ask. They're not there to laugh or poke fun at you. They really don't mind... I've never been turned down when I've asked for help in understanding how to better my abilities.

(3) And come March when the solo school is held, try to attend. It's well worth it! I plan to go back to the school for the second time this coming March. Hope to see you there. Happy Racing.

Steve Smith #40esp 87' fox mustang.

Make plans to attend the novice school on March 12, 2016 for more seat time and one on one instruction from a seasoned driver. Your tuition for the class will cover your entry to our 1st event on March 13th as well. It will be held Saturday, March 12th at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, TX. The school is limited to 45 entries. Fees are \$80 for SCCA members and \$90 for non-members. Registration for the school includes entry to the autocross the next day. Sign up early to guarantee your spot!