

# Howdy Texas Region

by Bob Neff, RE

Well here we are, at the beginning of another year of competition, and if 2018 is anything like last year it will be a good one. Texas region continued to grow in 2017 and in fact had the highest growth percentage (5.6%) of any of the 16 Jumbo (800+ members) regions. We're now the 12th largest SCCA region, with 958 members as of December 31st, and I expect that growth to continue as we expand our Time Trials program in 2018 alongside our very successful Road Rally, Autocross and Road Race programs. And our growth is even more impressive when compared to the National numbers, which show that overall SCCA membership actually decreased by nearly 3% last year.

We also had quite a number of our members celebrate significant membership anniversaries last year. Our ARE for Road Rally, Sasha Lanz, became a 50-year member in 2017 and our webmaster, Kenny Baker, became a 35-year member. Others celebrating anniversaries included:

•**25-Year Members**• Col. Roger Bass, Janet Brown, James Marshall, Jim Mitchell, Peter Outarsingh and Forrest Sanco •**30-Year Members**• Peter Agnell, Rober Bedell, Kurt Janish, Juanita Miller, ted Morgan Jr, Samuel Moultrie Jr, Lou Osborne, David Ricker and Michael Rudd. •**35-Year Members**• Kenny Baker, Kirk Miller, Richard Miller and Charles Nearburg •**40-Year Members**• Lee Carrico, David Schaller and Glenda Strange •**45-Year Member** • Bob Strange •**50-Year Members**• Costa and Wilma Dunias, and Sasha Lanz •**55-Year Member**• Dan Earhorn

Congratulations to all those members, and sincere thanks for your many years of service.

As we moved into 2018, things got very busy; in January and February we hosted the SWDiv Annual Meeting, held our annual Road Race School in Cresson followed immediately by the first Super Tour of the year at CoTA, sent representatives to the SCCA National Convention, and held our annual Awards Banquet which this year was at the Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway. A report on the Banquet will appear in a separate section of this newsletter, but from all appearances everyone had a great time.

The National Convention was a good one this year, with a number of excellent presentations by our new Club President (and Texas Region member) Mike Cobb. Mike spoke to a new emphasis in the National office on serving the members and providing "safe, fun and exciting motorsports experiences" and his enthusiasm was very well received by the attendees.

The focus of the Convention this year was on providing actionable knowledge that members could take back to their regions to help improve the various programs the Club offers, and included sessions on general leadership, how to be a better Race Chair, Road Race best practices, how to better utilize social media, how to better recruit and retain volunteers, discussion of the new version of Orbits T&S software and new X2 transponder system, Operating Steward training, techniques for critical incident management, and the reorganization of the Time Trials program to name a few.

There was also plenty of discussion about reorganization of the National staff, and introduction of the new Region Development Director Chris Robbins (also a Texas Region member – I'm seeing a trend here). With Member Services now under Chris, and Amy Thoennes moving over from her admin position, Mike Cobb is demonstrating that his concept of improving service to the membership isn't just a tag line.

In closing, I'd like to thank all Texas Region members for an outstanding year in 2017 and send best wishes for your 2018 competition season. See y'all at the races!

# SCCA Texas Region

2018 Q1  
Roundup  
Newsletter

## IN THIS ISSUE



### 2017 Awards Banquet Recap

(Above: Tom Brown accepts his well deserved Tony Predock Award) Texas Region RE Bob Neff recaps all the awards, honors, and accomplishments from the 2017 season. Congrats to all the winners and here's to another awesome year in 2018!

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### How to get involved in TRSS

Street Survival Chair Sam Graff breaks down the "how"s and the "why"s for the Tire Rack Street Survival program. Learn about the benefits of the school, how to sign up, and how to volunteer to help.

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# Saving Lives with Street Survival

by Sam Graff

The current facts and figures on traffic deaths are a call to action. The cold hard truth is that deaths among 15-22 year olds are dominated by traffic incidents. Nearly twice as many teenagers die each year from car crashes compared to death by disease and criminal offense combined. These figures are a scream for help; something needs to be done. Our children need us to help them become better drivers. The SCCA is in a position to help that become a reality. Our goal is to host up to three schools a year and help make our teens safer on the road.

On May 19, the Texas Region SCCA will be hosting our 6th Tire Rack Street Survival at Dragon Stadium in Southlake, TX.

Visit <http://streetsurvival.org> to register a student for \$95; you can volunteer to help by contacting Sam Graff ([sgraffogwrx@gmail.com](mailto:sgraffogwrx@gmail.com)). The program is offered through the SCCA Foundation and is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit. The \$95 student fee covers the cost of the event, lunch and water.

Volunteers and instructors will receive breakfast, lunch, and a polo shirt as well as a \$10 Amazon gift card. The last two years we have been successful enough to reward our coaches by choosing 1-3 at random to receive a \$250 or \$500 Tire Rack gift certificate. This year's winners: Peter Phoenix (\$500), Jim Bunch (\$250), and Tom Hamman (\$250) were recently announced at the SCCA Awards Banquet in February.

Students will drive their own vehicles, after they perform a safety inspection with help from our instructors. This includes how to check tire pressures, oil levels, and other fluids. After



registration and tech inspection, the students will gather for a short introduction to the program and what they day will look like; then the fun starts. Students will be split into two groups for classroom and driving time.

The classroom portion discusses each of the driving exercises in detail, along with techniques and practices that will make them safer drivers. These include weight transfer, where to look, and proper driving position.

During the morning driving session, the students learn a variety of skills at five different stations: slalom, skid pad, figure eight, emergency lane changes, and an ABS braking exercise. Each station is designed to demonstrate the real-world benefits and applications of the skills and techniques discussed in the classroom session. Students learn how to initiate, control, and recover from oversteer and understeer on the skid pad. The slalom teaches the benefits of looking ahead and keeping their eyes on the horizon while navigating. The figure eight teaches how to fully utilize ABS in an emergency situation and the importance of weight transfer and proper inputs. The dangers of over-correcting are taught when making an emergency lane change.

During the lunch break the instructors and volunteers combine the stations into a circuit, reminiscent of an autocross course. After lunch there is a download meeting of what was learned in the morning sessions. Then it's time to get back in the car. No longer are the techniques practiced in isolation as discreet skills, this final driving session is all about adapting to obstacles and situations on the fly and polishing the car control techniques from the morning. At the end of the day we even encourage the parents to jump in the cars with the students and go for a ride, nearly every parent is surprised and impressed by their child's new skills and confidence behind the wheel.

Sam Graff

Texas Region SCCA

Street Survival Chair

## DON'T FORGET!

May 19<sup>th</sup> - Dragon Stadium in Southlake

\$95 to register a student at [streetsurvival.org](http://streetsurvival.org)

CONTACT SAM GRAFF TO VOLUNTEER  
[sgraffogwrx@gmail.com](mailto:sgraffogwrx@gmail.com)



## Recognition and Appreciation

The Region trophies are polished and ready for their deserving recipients!



## Solo Awards

Presented to participants of the 2017 season, Solo Program Chair Jen Maxcy had lots to hand out!



## Time Trials Awards

Congrats to everyone who trophied this season in the first and only yearlong Time Trials competition series!



## 2017 Driver of the Year

Congratulations Chris Haldeman!



*The Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway provided a fitting backdrop for our celebration!*

# Awarding Texas Excellence

at the Texas Region Annual Awards Banquet

Texas Region held its annual Awards Banquet at the Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway on February 17th, and it was a rousing success. The 135 folks who attended were treated to a scenic view of the speedway and an excellent buffet dinner, and many received both competition and individual awards during the evening.

Bob Neff, Region RE, was our Emcee for the evening and spoke to the many successes during 2017 including the continued growth of region membership. Texas is now the 12th largest SCCA region and along with the other 15 Jumbo regions (800 or more members) represents over half of the total membership of SCCA, which gives us a big voice at the national level. Bob also spoke to many of the Region's plans and initiatives for 2018 including new membership initiatives, expansion of our Track Event/Time Trials program, and efforts to work with Eagles Canyon to bring Road Racing back into the Region in the future.

Road Rally recognized several members with awards: the 2017 General Award was presented to Michelle & John Poulos, the First Timer Award went to Brian and Lisa Brooks, and the Novice Award recognized Kathy and Noel Bowman.

Southwest Road Racing Championship series trophy winners were recognized, including three Texas Region members who claimed the Championship in their classes: David

Fershtand in GT1, James Michael in Formula 1000, and Chris Haldeman in Spec Miata.

The Club Race Committee also honored several of our Region members with the traditional Region Club Race awards.

Paul May was honored as Worker of the Year for his hard work and many contributions throughout the year in the Club Race Tech area.

And for her diligence and exceptional work throughout 2017 in



Registration, Linda Cardenas was honored with the 2017 AssBuster award.

Our Solo program chair, Jen Maxcy, handed out trophies to the many participants in that program throughout 2017, too many to name individually. And the Texas Region Time Trial program chair, Brad Flack, presented trophies to those who finished in trophy positions during the SCCA's first and only year-long Time Trial competition series.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners, and best of luck for the 2018 competition seasons!

Of course the highlight of the evening is presentation of the three major Texas Region Awards; Driver of the Year, the David C. Engelman Award, and the Region's highest honor – the Texas Region Member of the Year.

The Driver of the Year Award went to Chris Haldeman for his terrific performance throughout the 2017 competition season in the Club Race Spec Miata class. Chris won the SWRRC Spec Miata Championship as well as the SCCA Majors Southern Conference Spec Miata Championship, won the Spec Miata pole at the Runoffs at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in September and finished third in the race, and won



his class at the American Road Race of Champions at Road Atlanta in November. Against some of the very best amateur drivers in the U.S. Chris won six of those ten races and never finished off the podium. We're proud to have Chris representing Texas Region at the national level and grateful to be able to honor his performance with this award.

The David C. Engelman Award was presented, for the second time, to Matt Lucas who, while competing in both regional and national Solo events, also found time to support our Club Race and Time Trial activities. Even though he wasn't able to compete at those events, Matt provided extensive support for registration at all of them and contributed significantly to the successful transition of our Club Race program to Motorsportreg during the year.

The final award of the evening was presented to Brad Flack, our 2017 Member of the Year, for his exceptional commitment and dedication to our fledgling Time Trial program. Brad developed and implemented a completely new competition series that falls between our Solo and our Race programs and provides members an opportunity to compete in a true race track environment without actually

racing wheel-to-wheel. Since he assumed responsibility for the program it has grown from a single event with 15-20 participants to a complete series with five events during 2017 and an average entry count of more than 50 drivers per event. The program is attracting both existing members and, even more importantly, new members and has been a significant contributor to the region's growth this past year. And Brad expects to expand the program for 2018, including supplementing our continuing program at MSR Cresson by adding at least one event at Eagles Canyon. Texas Region was proud to honor him with this, the highest award that can be bestowed on a Region member, and we have no doubt he will continue to provide that same commitment and dedication as the Time Trial program



continues to develop.

The Region wishes to thank all the members who attended the Banquet for their participation and support, and to extend a special thanks to Jen Maxcy who chaired the Banquet Committee that arranged everything.

We hope y'all had a great time, and look forward to seeing you again next year!



# The Corner Marshals Fire School at COTA was a (safe) blast!

by Robin Gustavson

The Corner Marshals Fire School presented at Circuit of the Americas on Saturday, June 17, 2017 was a resounding success thanks to Roy Spielmann (COTA), Bryan Gregory (SCCA Southwest Division), Jim Johnstone and Betina Foreman (SCCA Lone Star Region), Van Ladendorf (SCCA Houston Region), CVAR, NASA and Travis County Fire Rescue.



A catered breakfast, as well as homemade breakfast tacos, were available at the COTA Media Center at 08:00 on Saturday morning thanks to happy hands on preparation by Ms. Foreman.

Roy Spielmann, Senior Manager of Motorsports Operations at COTA, provided the welcoming presentation beginning at 08:30 sharp. Mr. Spielmann has an impressive resume with 6 years serving as an Air Force Fire Fighter; 25 years as a paramedic and fire fighter with the North Shore FD in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and years of safety team experience with CART, ChampCar, IndyCar and Road America.

Jim Johnstone (SCCA Lone Star Region) then provided an in depth presentation of corner worker safety issues and procedures through a series of still photos, videos and personal anecdotes gleaned from his many years of participation as an Flagging and Communications worker and safety officer.

The 60 participants were then divided into two teams, with the first team being dispatched for their field training at the Travis County Fire Rescue facility down the road from COTA. There, they were briefed on the use of the Cold Fire™ and dry chemical fire bottles. After a review of the proper procedures for deploying both systems, each participant was provided with an opportunity to extinguish a simulated car fire which used the bottom third of a metal 55 gallon drum filled with a mixture of old motor oil and kerosene, which was then inserted inside the body shell of a Triumph Spitfire and set alight.

While team 1 was in the field, team 2 was provided with a presentation by Mr. Johnstone focusing on "what NOT to wear" in regards to fire safety, and why. Mr. Johnstone again provided still photos, videos and personal anecdotes illustrating the characteristics of cotton, cotton-poly blends, nylon, Kevlar, Nomex® and other Aramid fibers when exposed to open flame. These examples included video demonstrations of N.C. State's College of Textiles *Pyroman*, which is an instrumented manikin made of a heat-resistant composite material, and containing 122 thermal sensors distributed all over its simulated body. The *Pyroman* demonstrations provided a frighteningly realistic example of why we don't wear synthetic blend clothing of any kind when on the racetrack.



Addressed also were suggestions as to where to find appropriate clothing for corner workers and other volunteers, with examples ranging from simple cotton treated with fire retardant chemical up to full coverage Nomex® jump suits.

A catered lunch was provided about mid-day, after which the teams traded places to complete their training for the day. After which, the entire group of participants reconvened at the COTA Media Center conference room for a closing recap by Mr. Johnstone, followed by a drawing of door prizes consisting of caps, posters, framed photographs, and pins.

As was illustrated by Mr. Johnstone, this was the second Corner Marshals Fire School presented at Circuit of the Americas. But, unlike the first iteration 2 years ago, this presentation was a highly collaborative effort involving COTA, SCCA Southwest Division, the various SCCA regions in Texas, CVAR, NASA and Travis County Fire Rescue. The desire of the organizers, presenters and facilitators of this effort is to provide this professional level of training on a regular basis to volunteer workers regardless of affiliation.

If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Betina Foreman (SCCA Lone Star Region) or myself.

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# Impressions of a Rookie F & C Worker

My first real event; 2017 Hoosier Super Tour at COTA

By Robin Gustavson



Today is Tuesday.. I woke from race track dreams.. and I still occasionally think I hear the bawling of those GT cars and the shriek of the Mazda rotary motors..

COTA: I have always have been impressed with the job they did on Circuit of the Americas .. but to actually BE there is impressive to say the least .. Everything is top notch .. from infrastructure to organization to security to track crews, etc .. I walked the paddock before test & quali sessions on Friday .. to think of the teams that have been through there .. I was truly humbled to step foot on such hallowed ground ..

SCCA: What an outstanding bunch of folks to be associated with .. I have participated in a number of organized events from

motorcycle racing to competitive shooting to yacht racing .. and the SCCA crew are some of the most inviting, accommodating, humble and patient of any with whom I have ever been associated ..

The F&C crew: The F&C team started Friday with, I would guess, about 2/3 old timers and about 1/3 rookies .. at the first morning meeting there was, understandably, some confusion, but mostly cheerful anticipation. Once on station, as folks rotated through communication duty, one could sense the uncertainty in some of the voices. By Saturday morning, not so much .. and by the short races on Saturday afternoon everyone

sounded like they knew what they were doing. On Sunday, for the long races, I got the sense that everyone was on their "A" game .. everyone with F&C had the jargon and abbreviations and communications protocol down solid, and everyone from Control to F&C to Grid worked like a well oiled machine .. it reminded me of listening to the old NASA launches .. it was truly inspiring and I was honored to be a participant ..

Thanks again to the patient and hardworking SCCA volunteers, the COTA crews and, of course, the many teams who invested their precious time and money to engage in gentlemanly combat on such a fantastic circuit.

