

Howdy Texas Region!

by Bob Neff, RE

It's said that time flies when you're having fun, so it would seem we've been having a lot of fun lately because it's hard to believe we're already half way through the calendar year and two-thirds of the way through the Road Race season!

The Road Race season is really compressed toward the beginning of the year so we've already completed five of the seven weekends on the schedule, and Texas Region is well represented in the SCCA Southern Conference standings with five of our members leading their class, seven in second place and seven in third, including a "podium" sweep in GT1:

- American Sedan Phillip Waters 2nd
- E Production Rick Kosdrosky 2nd
- Formula Enterprises Robert Vanman 1st
- Liam Snyder 3rd
- Formula Mazda Nathan Ratton 3rd
- Formula V Darren Brown 2nd
- Willima Calkins 3rd
- GT1 David Fershtand 1st
- Michael Zoch 2nd
- James Marshall 3rd
- GT2 Don McMillon 1st
- Mark Kirby 3rd
- Prototype 2 Chris Hamilton 1st
- Spec Miata Chris Haldeman 1st
- Super Touring Under Angelica Sprehe 1st
- David Fiorelli 3rd
- Touring 1 Andrew Entwistle 2nd
- Touring 2 Bill Collins 2nd
- Touring 4 Paul May 3rd

The race committee is already working on a 2019 schedule that will be very similar to this year's but with the possibility of finally renewing our presence at Eagles Canyon. We have firm dates for CoTA (Feb 8-10), NOLA (Mar 9-10) and Hallett (Apr 6-7) and will confirm the rest of the schedule by late September, so it's not too early to start planning for next year.

And our other competition groups have also been busy.

In March we held the first SCCA event in years at Eagles Canyon, a Time Trial event that was hugely successful with a total of 67 entrants, and we just completed our third event for the year at MSR Cresson. Both the ECR and MSR events included a PDX (now referred to as Track Events) group with in-car and classroom instruction for novice drivers, and through these events Texas Region has now qualified 32 drivers for the new SCCA Time Trials Nationals event in September.

We held our first Street Survival event of the year in May and had a record attendance of 42 students. This terrific program is continuing to grow and is one of the most significant ways the Region gives back to our local communities.

Our Solo folks have also been very busy this year, with three Region events in the books and having already hosted not one but two national events, *(cont'd Page 2)*

SCCA Texas Region

Summer 2018 Roundup Newsletter

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Time Trials Update

Is time *really* on your side? The Texas Region Time Trials program and the Time Trials National Competition can help you find out! To learn more about both programs and how to get involved, checkout the write-ups inside!

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Novice School a Success!

Tim Bergin recalls the exciting day Solo novices spent learning the basics they need to be successful autocrossers! Share in Tim's success in this issue of Roundup.

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(cont'd) a National Tour and a combined ProSolo®/CAM Challenge (which had a record 229 entries!). Needless to say the Solo Board members have to be exhausted after all that, and I thank them for their hard work in making these events successful.

There were also twenty folks from Texas Region that competed at the annual Spring Nationals in Lincoln; three of those were class winners during the ProSolo (Jeremy Foley, and the dynamic duo of David and Kim Whitener) and seven won their class during the Tour event including Jeremy Foley and David Whitener who doubled up by winning in both

events, as well as Brad McCann, Lane Borg, Stephen Simonds, KJ Christopher and Kencey Christopher. Congratulations to all of those class winners!

And our Road Rally program continues to grow, now under the leadership of John Poulos as our long-standing "master" of RR, Sasha Lanz, has stepped back a bit this year after many, many years heading up this program. Our Tulip Time Rally was held in May, with 26 participants, and everyone had a terrific time while enjoying some wonderful north Texas scenery (albeit with more bluebonnets than tulips).

So the first half of 2018 has been terrific for Texas Region, with lots of folks having tons of fun in their cars, and I expect the second half to be just as exciting and rewarding as we all prepare for the year-end National events coming up in September and October.

As always, thanks to all the Region Members for their support and participation with Texas Region, and especially to our volunteer workers and event managers who make these activities possible.

Until next time! ■

Congratulations, Taylor!

Meet our new Texas Region Membership Chair, Taylor Gustavson



A welcoming demeanor runs in the Gustavson family! We're proud to announce Taylor Gustavson is taking over for his father, Robin, in the position of Texas Region Membership Chair.

Late last year, I appointed a new Membership Chair for Texas Region, Robin Gustavson, and the Board heartily approved of his appointment. As an enthusiastic participant in both our Race and Solo programs, Robin was ideally suited for the position, as his articles in the Q1 Edition of the Roundup demonstrated. Unfortunately, adding the Membership duties to that already full schedule proved to be problematic, and Robin has now been forced to step down from the position.

The good news is that our Region has this unwritten "rule" that says before a person can relinquish their position with the club they have to find their own replacement, and in this case Robin didn't have to look far for his.

Our newly appointed Membership Chair for 2018 is his son, Taylor Gustavson.

As a working mechanic Taylor is involved in a wide variety of motorsports activities, and he's currently active with our Solo group as well as our Time Trials group. He'll be reaching out to folks for things like Roundup articles and photos as well as recruitment and retention activities, and I hope all of you will give him your support and encouragement.

Welcome aboard Taylor!

-Bob Neff, Regional Executive

Texas Region SCCA, Inc.

Time Trials Update

by Brad Flack, Texas Region Time Trials ARE

The Texas Region Championships are well under way and about half the season has been run and in the books! Our next event is July 21 at Eagles Canyon Raceway. Registration for this event will open Monday June 18.

This year, the national offices have noticed what is happening with the fun and excitement we have around Time Trials, and they are setting up a national Time Trial championship. The event will be held at NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green Kentucky September 28-30.

The event classing will be different from the classes we run here in Texas, but the competition will be fun with competitors from around the country. If you have not made the pilgrimage to NCM (National Corvette Museum), it is a wonderful venue and has some great side areas to visit.

Those who have run with Texas Region for more than 3 events in 2017 or 2018 have had their names sent to the SCCA National



offices to register as a licensed Time Trial driver for this event. That means you won't need to go through the qualifying sessions to prove you can drive on track for the TT event. **Registration for the 2018 SCCA Time Trials Nationals will open on Wednesday, June 20th and is limited to 225 drivers total.** Information and classing can be found at the links below:

[SCCA Time Trials Nationals Update](#)

[Time Trials Rules](#)

[Hagerty Offers Coverage for Time Trials Primers](#)

We hope you can make the next events! ■

DON'T FORGET!

June 20th - TT Nationals registration opens

July 21st - Eagles Canyon Raceway

What's Time Trials and How do I Start?

Glad you asked!

The Texas Region has a growing Time Trials program which has become one of the area's most exciting events. You provide the car and we will give you a transponder and track time to show who is the best in your class of car! Our scheduled events can be found at Texasccca.org/trials to help you navigate your way to our season championships, or just a few events to enjoy driving with other enthusiasts.

If you have not run in a competitive environment, this is your chance to learn. We offer track instruction for novices, and competition against the clock for veterans. After successfully running a minimum of 3

full Time trial events with the Texas region, you can qualify for your SCCA Time Trial license. This will allow you to run at our 1st ever national SCCA Time Trials Championships in September to be held at the National Corvette Museum Raceway in Bowling Green Kentucky. Sign up today to qualify for your license and avoid the rush in Kentucky!

Texas Region Time Trials classes similar cars through known rule sets together to compete for a best in class championship using a handicap system based on track length, and known vehicle capability. Run groups are limited to allow space on the



Time Trials Nationals in Bowling Green, Kentucky is a great opportunity for friendly competition with the rest of the SCCA's participants. Have fun and show your Texas pride with one of the Region's TT t-shirts while you're there!

track for good flying laps and lap times. Come Run with the Texas Region and join our run for the Texas Region championship! ■

Lots of New Talent and Smiles at Solo Novice School!

by Tim Bergin

March 3rd, the day prior to our first solo event of the year, our annual solo novice school took place. A group of 45 excited students, most of which had little to no experience autocrossing, met at Dragon stadium in Grapevine. Their goal, to hone their skills navigating those orange cones we're all too familiar with.

The school began at 8am with a classroom session to cover some performance driving basics such as how to navigate a slalom. The flow of our solo events was one of the topics covered to help reduce the stress of arriving at an event for the first time and not knowing where to go or what to do. This year Phil Adams lent his services both at leading the classroom portion but also as an in-car instructor (many thanks Phil!).

The classroom session gave the other volunteers time to setup a pair of interesting courses as well as tech the students' cars. The courses were shorter than a normal autocross course to help turn the "sea" of cones for a novice into a more manageable and easy to remember pond. Thanks to Jerrett Jan for designing the courses and coming out to help set them up early on a Saturday morning.

After the classroom the students split up into groups of 3 to work with an instructor. Fifteen of our talented local autocrossers volunteered their Saturday to give the first timers a great introduction to the sport we enjoy. Instructors led a course walk

with their group, pointing out key cones. Looking ahead, a skill placed center stage throughout the day.

In-car instruction was focused on getting a baseline of each student's strengths and weaknesses and helping to improve upon those. Instructors would ride-along during a couple of runs then take a turn driving to show the proper lines as well as where the student could improve. Runs would then follow with the instructor either in-car or observing from the outside, giving feedback after each run.

The driving portion of the school was arranged in a run/off/work format for the student. This is so instructors could give their full attention to one student at a time and cut down on the time spent jumping between cars. The format also allowed those that had never worked an autocross course an opportunity to get used to being in the middle of an active course without the stress of a car coming every 25 seconds.

A lunch break was taken and afterward the students swapped courses and paired with a new instructor. To help give more seat time, as getting 7-8 groups of students through a course walk can take some time, a course walk was not done in the afternoon. (This had the added benefit of allowing more fun runs at the end of the day.) The driving instruction would otherwise mirror the morning session.

After the school it is customary that I send out a survey to all the students

asking for their feedback. My goal is to see how their day went and glean where the school could be improved. This year we had the highest response rate ever, with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the students responding. Every response gave high marks to the instructors and the school in general with everyone saying they would recommend it others.

Although there were several fantastic comments in the survey, there is one that I feel captures the spirit of why we all do it. "I could not have had a better first impression of the sport!!!" The school is aimed at the novice, primarily those that have never looked at an orange cone as a challenge. That comment tells me we're not only improving their skill but also showing them there is a club out there full of friendly, knowledgeable members that look forward to helping them get better. I think we were successful.

I cannot thank those that volunteered to help this year enough. Just as importantly, I hope those first timers get hooked as hard as this first timer was during a school 18 years ago. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24th - Solo Event #4
7:30am- 4pm TMS Bus Lot

July 29th - Solo Event #5
7:30am- 4pm Lone Star Park Gate 4

August 19th - Solo Event #6
7:30am- 4pm TMS Bus Lot

Sept 23rd - Solo Event #7
7:30am-4pm TMS Road Course