

The official newsletter of the Detroit Region of SCCA ®

Fall 2016

Happy New Year to all our readers.

We hope 2017 brings you much fun on the track, on the sidelines and in the bar!

Since 2016 was a leap year, Matt Peterson and Ian Kessler appropriately performed a leap on the Black River Stages.

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Links:

- [Detroit Region Website](#)
- [Facebook page](#)
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- [Facebook Rallycross](#)
- [SCCA](#)
- [MotorsportReg](#)
- [Cincinnati Region](#)
- [Saginaw Valley Region](#)
- [Western MI Region](#)
- [NE Ohio Region](#)
- [Waterford Hills Racetrack](#)



About us



Director and officials (as of end of November 2016)

Patrick Barber	Regional Executive
Mike Nienhuis	Assistant Regional Executive
Brian Thorpe	Secretary, Open Exhaust Editor
Dr. Jennifer Glass	Treasurer
Aaron Usher	Financial Director
Jeremiah Mauricio	Solo Director
Jerry Shiloff	Race Director
John Fishbeck	Rally Director
Jon Jareo	RallyCross Director
Jennifer Merideth	Director At Large, Chief of Solo Registration
Eric Penn	Director At Large
John Lisiecki	Director At Large
Matt Wolfe	Director At Large
Steve Balanecki	Membership Chair
Mike Burns	Webmaster
Ken Wiedbusch	Timing Equipment Specialist
Mike McClintock	Club Vehicle Specialist
John Kytasty	Club Vehicle Specialist
Mary Shiloff	Chief of Registration
Ed Arthur	Chief of F & C
Richard (Blackie) Meyers	Chief of Fire and Rescue

Board of Directors Meetings

The Detroit Region holds Board Meetings every second Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend to see the professional way the club is run. Information about the meetings is on our [web site](#).

Minutes of the meetings can be [downloaded here](#).

Membership

The Detroit Region of the Sports Car Club of America is one of the larger regions with over 1400 members. It has something for every taste, including some of the country's best organized Rallycross, Solo (Autocross) and TSD Rallies.

Membership includes a subscription to [SportsCar magazine](#), discounts and savings, schools and classes, experts and information and insurance while participating at SCCA events.

We have 1429 members as of 10/09/2016

Long Service Awards are listed at the end of the newsletter.

You can join SCCA [online or by mailing the Application form](#).

Photograph Credits

Many of the photos were found on the internet. If the photographer was known, credit was given. If you want credit for any of your photos, please contact me at openexhaust@detroit-scca.org.

Cover Photo

Don Fitzcarraldo caught this incredible picture of Matt Peterson and Ian Kessler taking off but seconds later they were on their side!

Links

Remember to click on all the links in **Red** for videos and still photos on the web.

Open Exhaust Articles

Articles are always needed and members will get one article worker point for every published. They can be about anything automotive but a priority will be given to articles about Detroit Region events and/or members.



2017 Calendar of Events



[Click on this link to the Detroit Region online calendar](#)

Solo

Tire Rack Oscoda ProSolo

August 4-6, Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport , Oscoda Township, MI

Rallycross

Rallycross #1

January 7, Crystal Motor Speedway, Crystal, MI 48818

Rallycross #2

February 11, I96 Speedway, Lake Odessa, MI

Rallycross #3

February 25, location TBD.

TSD Rally

Son of Sno*Drift

January 14, Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill, South Lyon, MI

Race

24 Hours of LeMons

April 22-23, Gingerman, South Haven, MI

Drivers Flagging School

April 29-30, Waterford Hills, MI

Detroit Region Annual Awards Banquet

February 4, One Under Banquet Hall, Livonia, MI

Also:

Sno*Drift Rally.

January 27-28, Atlanta, MI

[Waterford Hills Road Racing Calendar](#)

[SCCA Race](#)

[SCCA Solo](#)

[American Rally Association](#)

The rally was run on October 1, 2016 and was headquartered at Ruckle's Pier in Clare, MI.

It was a gray and rainy day... But that didn't stop 11 driver/navigator teams from having at it in [David Stone](#)'s 2016 running of his Clare Color Tour TSD rally. While the field was a bit lighter than we normally like to see, that didn't stop some spirited contests from occurring. After 5.8 hours and 164 miles of timed competition in wet, sometimes challenging road conditions the results were:

1st overall and 1st Equipped: [Dave Harkcom](#) and Greg Lester, with just 11 penalty points for 15 controls, a remarkable average of less than 1 hundredth of a minute error per control!

1st Limited and 2nd overall the Brothers Usher, [Nathan](#) and Aaron, posted another astounding result of just 16 points for the 15 controls.

1st in Stock went to Gary Sanford and Kevin Dilley, who've been working diligently the past couple of years to hone their skills, and who pulled off their stock class win with a respectable score of 164.

Two novice teams entered the event, and the team of Mark Partlo and Allen Deocher pulled off the class win with a score of 945.

Congrats to the winners and the usual big shout out to David for putting the event on and all of the workers who came out. A special nod to [Mary Shiloff](#), who just seems to be everywhere Detroit Region events occur, for her usual exemplary registration and scoring work.

[John Fishbeck](#)

[Link to the Clare Color Rally flyer.](#)

TSD Rallying is an excellent way for novices to get a taste of competition without the need for any car modifications, and so it is far more affordable than Stage Rallying. Scott Harvey Jr. has written an excellent "[Beginners Guide TSD Road Rally](#)" which can be found on our web site.





Directors Election



Every year, an election is held to appoint four Board Directors for two year terms each. This year, we had only four candidates for the four positions and, believe it or not, they were all elected! There was no sign of ballot stuffing or a rigged system!

There were two term limited directors, Patrick Barber and Eric Penn, who were ineligible to run again. Two others were at the end of their 2 year term, Jen Glass and John Lisiecki. Jen decided to run again. We thank the outgoing directors for their service and expect that they will continue to immerse themselves in the running of the Club.

The following were elected to the Board of Directors and take up their positions at the next meeting:

Jennifer Glass

Jen was a member of the Board of Directors from 2008-2013 and again from 2015-present, serving as Member at Large, Assistant RE, RE, and most recently as Treasurer. She wanted to continue in the treasurer role and ran for election to the board for another 2-year term. She has been a member of SCCA since 2005 and started competing in Solo with her 2001 2.5 RS Subaru. She then added RallyCross and TSD Rally, but sadly, the 2.5 RS got too rusty and it became a parts car for other Detroit Region members. She also RallyCrossed her 1986 Porsche 944 for a year or two until it suffered an as yet undiagnosed, but critical, engine failure!

Scott Harvey

Scott served on the BOD for several years as RallyCross Director, Secretary, or Director at Large. He was also editor of the newsletter "Open Exhaust" from 2009 to 2012. He first joined Detroit SCCA in 1981 to follow in his father's footsteps and compete in many stage rallies right through the demise of SCCA Pro Rally in 2003. He has been very active in chairing or co-chairing several solo events including the Solo School, and he has been Chairman and Rallymaster of the "Son of Sno*Drift" TSD rally every year since 1999. Was a driving force in getting the Detroit Region RallyCross program up and running, and continues to support the RallyCross program by hosting three events per year.

Ido Waksman

Ido started Autocrossing only two and a half years ago, and his involvement has been snowballing ever since. It only took him a year to sign up for his first trip to Solo Nationals. He has managed season points tracking for solo events, and twice was novice chief. He co-chaired two events, including the first event at the new Schoolcraft site in Livonia. He has run in a Solo regional event hosted by another region, and he is anxious to see how we compare with others and where can we improve. Ido brings fresh blood and enthusiasm to the board.

Frank Putman

Frank has almost 25 years of club membership, which began in club racing as a crew chief and race engineer. The last 17 years have been devoted to Solo and other club activities. He is on the FSAE organizing committee and an Event Captain. He works the Detroit Grand Prix on the equipment crew. He holds four licenses granted by the National Office: Solo Safety Steward, Solo Safety Steward Instructor,



Rallycross



As usual the Rallycross program was as active as ever, with six events since the last newsletter.

The August event at Crystal Motor Speedway was cancelled due to rain spoiling the track.

Rallycross #8 was held at Thistle Hill Farm in South Lyon, on September 17, 2016. during the sticky, rainy, gripless morning.

Rallycross #9 was held at I-96 Speedway in Lake Odessa on October 22.

Rallycross #10 was held at Oakshade Raceway, OH as a day/night event.

Here are some comments from [Sean Grogan](#):

Rallycross in the Detroit region has really stepped up the game from an already national level program that we had just 2-3 years ago. The crew that puts events on, is a well oiled machine, that does a tremendous job of filling specialty positions with experienced participants (and volunteers). The competition has been stepped up to a whole new level, with Saturday seeing two former (I think 1 current) national champion taking a third place to two Detroit regional competitors. Stock rear has gotten so competitive, that essentially if you hit one cone, or have one mediocre run all day, you're bumped 1-2 positions. Scott Banes has shown the potential of what a true MA car can be capable of, and is starting to put together clean runs and really doing some damage. Jon T has stepped up his already very fast game, with a brand new EVO X ready to take on anyone in the nation in SA, Nate Muncie retired the 2G DSM and has a beautiful and crazy fast EVO IX

in PA, and Mod Rear is maybe the most interesting class featuring some very fast, forced induction Miata's and MR2s, a stage Rally VW Bug, and everything in between. I'd put our program right now in terms of structure, organization and competition up against any region or national level SCCA Rally X in the nation right now. Everyone in Detroit SCCA should be proud of the state of RallyX right now.

The following day at the same location the rained out March (was #6) event was held.

Rallycross #11 was held at Thistle Hill Farm

Held on December 3, the event was sold out as usual. The spectator parking field was soggy and so spectators were discouraged. That is a pity because the site is the closest to Detroit and is the most popular for spectators of all our events. Mother Nature dictates!

In the morning the track was a little muddy, (no need for Scott to water it down), but in the afternoon it dried and hardened allowing faster times.

There were a couple of tire debeads, but, aside from holding up proceedings for a few minutes, there were no other mishaps.

The slippery conditions were tricky for the rear drive cars and the spectacle of the day goes to [the BMW of Team Finn who dances to](#)

[The Blue Danube waltz by J. Strauss](#)

Here is some [video by Scott Banes of the first two run groups](#). The Porsche 911 of Paul Eddleston features the most, probably because he gives the best bribes! That car sounds so nice, quite a change from the gaggle of Subarus.

After the event, a few diehards stayed behind to drink a few beers around a log fire. A great end to a great day!

Results are always on the porta potty



Drivers meeting



The reason for the Oakshade postponement



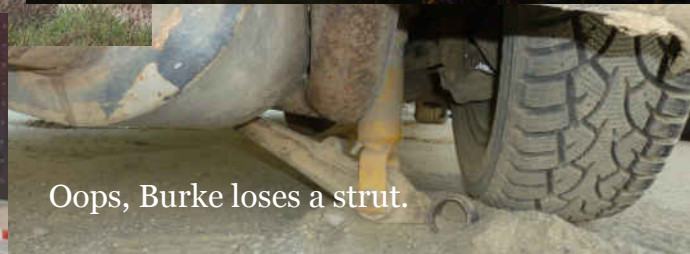
Emily Yanca, the editors daughter who is too close to beating him in his own car!



Villemure's bug



Oops, Burke loses a strut.



Order more cones for 2017!



Editor, getting too sideways as usual



Who needs an anti-roll bar?





Rallycross Nationals - Indianola, IA



Congratulations to Detroit Region members who trekked out to the 2016 [SCCA RallyCross](#) National Championship in [Indianola, Iowa](#).

Members [Scott Banes](#), [Jon Trudeau](#), and [Matt Wolfe](#) represented the Detroit Region on the biggest stage of RallyCross competition.

Scott was running in his Modified AWD class Subaru Impreza and was setting blistering times, but a series of mechanical failures kept him out of the trophies. Jon brought home the lone trophy for Detroit with a 2nd place in Stock AWD in his Impreza WRX. Jon ran fast and consistent all weekend and managed to not hit a single cone. Matt was the lone 2wd entry from the region, and finished just one spot out of the trophies in the [Team Effort Motorsports](#) supported Ford Escort.

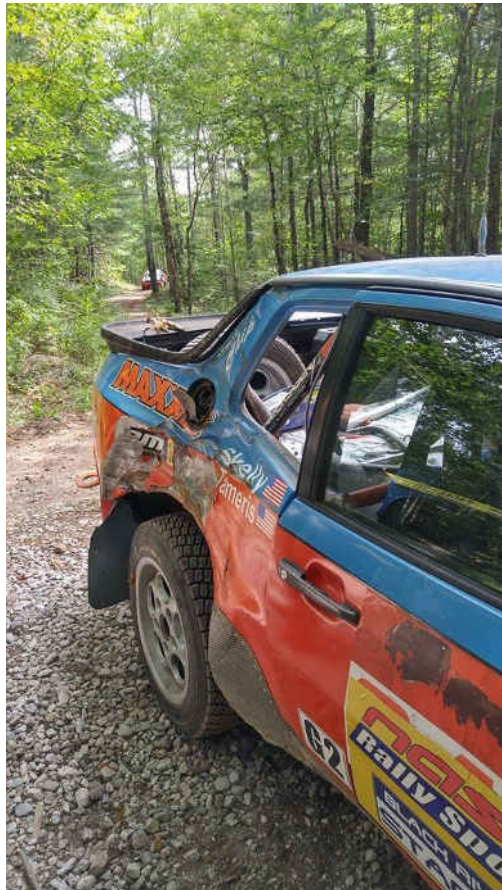
Again congrats to all three for a job well-done and thank-you to everyone who was rooting for them back home



[Black River Stages](#) is a stage rally that takes place every fall in upstate New York. This year it was held on September 17th and headquartered in Harrisville, Lewis County, NY.

There were two entries with Detroit Region competitors: Charli Tameris in his Porsche 944, with Amanda Skelly in the hot seat; and Matt Peterson in his Honda Civic, with Ian Kessler codriving.

Charli and Amanda hit 2 trees and the Porsche was retired on SS3. Their comments are below.



Matt and Ian rolled after a huge jump on SS5. The front left tire burst on landing and resulted in a sharp right turn and gentle roll on the left side. They were pushed back onto the wheels and were able to finish the stage. After tire changes they were able to finish the rally but lost 18 minutes on that stage. [Video of Peterson/Kessler crash](#)

[In car of Charli and Amanda's crash](#). THIS is a perfect example of why it is worth investing in halo seats in your rally car to protect your head and neck against side impact. The Porsche did it's job of keeping them both safe after hitting the 2 trees at 75mph. They were sitting 4th overall in 2WD and 3rd in class at the time of the crash, but you have to finish!. Amanda was quite sore afterwards but recovered in time.

Charli Tameris:

I still can't believe how hard we hit. At [Twisted Nutz racing](#) we don't throw in the towel very easily. Dented panels and bent up cars don't usually slow us down. The axle was so mangled from the tree hit that we couldn't continue. We did have spares but couldn't make fit in the position it is supposed to reside because the control arm was bent. I have to thank my crew, the organizers, Ian Kessler for letting his gf navigate for me. I hope you are feeling well today, Amanda Skelly. All in all it was a great event. Got to spectate a little and hang out with good friends that will always be more family to me.

Link to [Entry list](#)

Link to [Results](#)



Lake Superior Performance Rally



The Lake Superior Performance Rally was held in Houghton, MI October 14 - 15, 2016. The event was Round #8 of the Rally America National Championship. LSPR includes two Regional Rallies, the Ottawa Rally run on Friday, October 14th and the Lac Vieux Desert Rally run on Saturday, October 15th. This year marks the 22nd Anniversary of a Lake Superior Performance Rally. The Lake Superior Region officially assumed production of this event in 1994.

Nathan Usher:

We started off the day today doing great, but I made a big mistake that got us stuck long enough to put us in last place. On a better note, we did awesome on the street stage in front of the spectators and set the 6th fastest time.

31 Motorsports:

Finished both days of LSPR. Had a few mishaps on stages. Engine wiring harness came unplugged on 3 stages and cost us some time. The biggest was we broke a rear suspension tie rod. Took us 52 minutes to fix, but was able to fix on stage and continue. Look forward to next year!

Here are the local entries who come from the Detroit Region and Western Michigan:

Mike Engle/Brian Arpke(666) - Subaru RS (middle age)

Nathan Usher/ Marianna Langosch (121) - Subaru WRX, non turbo, but lotsa power (millennial)

Jay and Eric Anderson (513) - Toyota Celica (old)

Colin Ravenscroft/Brian Thurgate (161) - Toyota Corolla (new)

Jason Porritt/Lori Clute (870) - VW Jetta (early middle age)

Santiago Inglesias/Angela Cosner (328) - BMW 328 no less! (middle age)

Bill Marenich/Ian Holmes (732) - VW Golf (oldish) [Here's an account of their rally](#)

Jimmy Pelizzari/Kate Stevens (221) - Mazda 323 (old)



Driver or navigator error?



Jason Porritt/Lori Clute



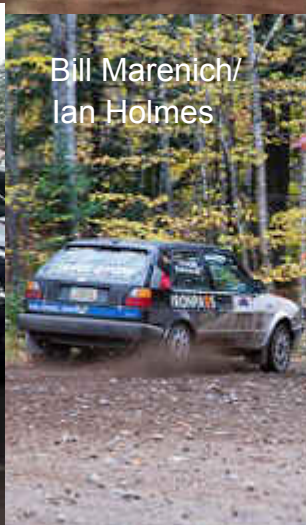
The long and winding road



Jimmy Pelizzari/Kate Stevens



Bill Marenich/
Ian Holmes



31 Motorsports, Jeffrey Reamer/ Jeremy Jankowske



Usher/Langosch need a push





Congratulations to the many [Detroit Region SCCA](#) members who participated in the 2016 [Empire Hill Climb](#) on September 24:

Patrick Waligore, Jonathan Rogers, Frank Schwartz, Jimmy Pelizzari, and numerous other DRSCCA members descended upon the hamlet of [Empire, Michigan](#) last weekend to take a run up the historic hill.

Patrick won the "2WD Under" class overall, while the fastest time of the weekend went to Mikko Kataja

and his [VHTRacing Engineering](#) Toyota Starlet. [In car video of the winner, Mikko Kataja.](#)

[Here is the story of Mikko's Toyota Starlet](#) an awesome machine!

Detroit SCCA also provided equipment and personnel to help out at the event this weekend, and we are very happy to be a part of the hill climb's revival. Many thanks to Mary S, Jerry S, Ken W, Nathan U, Marianna L and many others for all their help...!!!

[Driving Line's article on the top 7 cars on the Empire Hill Climb](#) written by Tara Hurlin.

Finish line video by Tim DeLong: <https://www.facebook.com/tim.delong.376/videos/10207024750637316/>

Click here for the [Results.](#) Photos by [Tara Turbo-Hurlin](#)



Last year, over 5,000 teenagers died in motor vehicle crashes, the leading killer of American youths aged 16 to 19, accounting for more than 40 percent of fatalities in that age bracket. To help address this, the Tire Rack Street Survival program was developed. It is a non-profit, national driver education program aimed at teaching teens the skills they need to stay alive behind the wheel.

The primary emphasis of the Tire Rack Street Survival program is a hands-on driving experience in real-world situations. Students use their own cars to learn about their handling limits and how to control them.

The students will become more observant of the traffic situation they find themselves in. They will learn to look far enough ahead to anticipate unwise actions of other drivers. As the students master the application of physics to drive their cars, they will make fewer unwise driving actions themselves. They will understand why they should always wear their own seatbelts, and why they should insist that their passengers wear seatbelts, too.

Every year, the Detroit Region of SCCA runs such an event at the [Fowlerville Proving Grounds](#). This year's event was held on September 24 and was organized as usual by our own Eric Penn. The weather was nice; 26 students and 28 parents attended. Based on the surveys everyone enjoyed the event. As always some students wanted more time driving and less time in the classroom ; Also some parents wanted to drive in the exercises!





Tire Rack Solo Nationals



The 2016 [Tire Rack SCCA Solo Nationals](#), presented by Garmin VIRB, set a new attendance record. Officially, a total of 1,305 drivers crossed the timing lights September 5-9 at Lincoln Airpark this year in Lincoln, Nebraska. That makes the 2016 event the largest in Sports Car Club of America history, and most likely the largest annual motor-sports event on Earth.

A total of 70 different car classes took part in the 2016 Tire Rack SCCA Solo Nationals. There were 37 winners named after the first two days of racing, and another 33 titles handed out after the final two days of competition.

Congrats to Detroit Region members Greg Anthony (4th place in F Street Prepared) and Neil Britton (6th in G Street) for their first ever nationals trophy positions. Well done guys. Josh McDonough had a great 2nd place finish in G Street and Kenneth Tsang, after leading day 1, got screwed by rain with only 1 dry run, and had to settle for 4th, but he was the fastest non Focus ST in G Street. Nice job guys.

Heat 5 was controversial in that some runs were in the dry but rain affected later runs and of course times were way off. Some runs were repeated but subsequent protests clouded the day.

The National Appeals Committee denied the appeal and upheld the decision of the Protest Committee. The results then included the dry runs, then the wet runs in the order in which they were taken. The fourth runs of those who were offered them were not be counted.



There are lots of photos here courtesy of [Grass Roots Motor Sports magazine](#)



Long Service Awards



Congratulations to the following
long service members:

Zachary Megis
Michal Jerzy Piotrowicz

15 years

45 years

Michael J. Royce

Kevin J. Robinet
David M. Sellers
Tim E. Gaffney

35 years

Thomas E. Woodside
Edward W. Clancy Jr.

10 years

David P. Livingston
Nicholas Tait Sullivan
Marco Antonio Diniz de Oliveira
Donald Badaczewski

30 years

Kenford R. Nelson

5 years

25 Years

Anthony Sleath

Karl Russell DeBoer
Alex M. Shull
Adam Jacobs
Melissa Robinet
Steven Otto Krauss
Steven Schweitzer
Dan Weber Chandler
Patrick LaMontagne
Gene Martindale

20 years

Robert L. Featherly