

## *The CheckPoint*

### February - March 2017

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**Solo Schedule**

Event 1 – **Apr 9** – Nexteer

Event 2 – **Apr 30** – Nexteer

Test & Tune – **May 19**

Event 3 & 4 – **May 20&21** – Oscoda – Get your camper ready! (p. 6)

Event 5 – **Jun 18** – Barstow

**Pro Class for 2017**

The solo board has decided to run a Pro class this year. This will allow drivers who want to compete in an index class to all run together. When registering, choose your base class in “*Car Class Picklist Base Classes*” then PRO in the “*Car Class Picklist Index Classes*”

Event 6 & 7 – **Jun 24&25** – Yooper Cup in Brimley MI. Details will be posted on MAE and in the May Checkpoint.

Car Model  \* required

Car Color  \* required

Car Class Picklist (Base classes)  \* required  
More info on SCCA Solo Classes

Car Class Picklist (Indexed classes)

Car Number Choice #1  \* required

Other Driver (2 driver car)  Second driver must submit a separate entry form. Specifying a name here does not register them for this event.

Event 8 – **Jul 23** – Barstow – Ladies Day at the Races – 50th Anniversary Weekend Autocross

Event 9 – **Sep 24** – Barstow

Event 10 – **Oct 7** – Location TBD – Season Ender

### **Q&A with Tom Hudak**

In honor of SVR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are featuring a series of articles picking the brain of one of our charter members, Tom Hudak. (p.2)

option.

### **Remember to Pre-Register**

Registration on the day of the event will again cost \$5 more. You may register but not pay. You will pay at the site when you arrive.

Registration fees:

- Member - \$30
- Jr. Member - \$20
- Registration only, pay at site - \$0

[Solo Web Page](#) Click on the MAE link to register.



## **Q&A with Tom Hudak**

Jay Payne

Tom and I started this last year. I wanted to have Tom share some of his experiences with everybody. Having been a 52-year member of the SCCA and an original member in Saginaw Valley Region for 50-years he has a lot of history to share with us. I wasn't sure how I was going to present this as an article, but after receiving Tom's replies I decided to ask the questions and post his replies so the reader can get it straight from the horse's mouth as the saying goes. I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the past with Tom and me.

### **1. Where, why and how did you first get started with the SCCA?**

I grew up in Allison Park, a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA. I did grade school, high school, college and learned to drive in the area. At the time, I had only left the area to do one year of college in western NY and six months' active duty with the USAF in TX. After college graduation, I landed a job, bought my first car (a used, red '60 Triumph TR3) and got into the work, play, drive routine when I got the proverbial letter saying "Uncle Sam Wants You!" When I came back from active duty, I got my car out of storage, took another job and started to notice more and more TR's, MG's, Jaguar's, etc. A local VW salesman in the neighborhood suggested that I join Steel Cities Region of SCCA about spring of 1965 as they had plenty of sports car activities. Steel Cities was a large membership club with gymkhana events, road rally's and sports car racing.

### **2. What form/s of racing were you into at the time? What type of car/s?**

I had only gone to one or two meetings with Steel Cities and started to do gymkhana events in my '60 TR3. By the time, I moved to Saginaw, I had purchased my first new car, a '64 TR4, all black with red interior. Gymkhanas were my introduction to racing sports cars, first in Pittsburgh, then in MI. Winter in MI also provided Ice Runs, which I had never heard of and Snow Runs in an open snow covered field. Both are now known as Rallycross events.

### **3. When did you move to MI and what SCCA group where you associated with?**

Several months later in the fall of 1965, I took a job with the Lumber Division of Wickes Corporation in Saginaw. Although Saginaw Valley Sports Car Club was active in Saginaw, it was an independent club with no affiliation. My SCCA membership was then transferred to Northeast Michigan Region (NEM, Flint – Grand Blanc), which dissolved around the early '90's. Both SVSCC & NEM coordinated their calendars and events to the best interest of all. And both clubs helped each other organize TSD rally's including overnight rallies to northern MI and to the grand opening and first race at Michigan International Speedway in 1968. The NEM Region sponsored the Blue Water Regional Races at Waterford Hills Raceway.

As you may have noticed in recent "Times Gone By" articles, SVSCC had begun to inquire with NEM and with SCCA to become affiliated with SCCA. My membership was transferred from

NEM to SVR when SVR joined SCCA in January, 1967.

**4. Did you continue the same type of racing or because of the change in regions did your interest change?**

I did solo events, local road rally events and began the process of getting a Flagging & Communications License for road racing events at Grayling, Waterford Hills, Grattan and Michigan International Speedway. After flagging numerous races, I then began training to be a starter at all of those tracks. I had a great time of it with Ed Houlihan at Waterford and Dick Blackman and Bobbi Orr of Western Michigan Region at the Grattan Track. Road racing was a summertime activity, but Time Speed Distance (TSD) road rally and Pro Rally were year-round. In the '60's & '70's SVSCC / SVR did as many as 18 events a year! In addition to at least one "Bluewater Regional Race" at Waterford Hills and sometimes a National Race at Grattan! So, a lot of auto related activities were available for the club members.

**5. How did the formation of the Saginaw Valley Region come about and what role did you have in it?**

Actually, I was more of a "bystander" during the foundation of the SVSCC to SVR-SCCA change. Most of the inquiry and conversation took place among the 1966 Board Members with the approval of the membership. At that time, NEM included a few counties to the south; Western Michigan Region had the counties to the west of US 127 (formerly US27) and Detroit Region had all the rest of the counties including the U.P. SVR

was looking to get a charter for the counties of Saginaw, Bay and Midland. So, the SVSCC Board had to acquire approval from Detroit Region and have the blessing of NEM to become chartered by SCCA. Plus, SVR would have to have a minimum of 50 paid members. At that time, many of the SVSCC members had "dual" membership with NEM. This meant that NEM would be losing a few members to the new club. Eventually it all worked out.

To Be Continued Next Month

## **Times Gone By by Tom Hudak**

Information from old Check Point publications, courtesy of George Austin.

Information from old Fifth Wheel publications, courtesy of Bob & Bernie Madison & Joe Beaune.

### **50 Years Ago April, 1967**

Carolyn Meerzo, editor, wrote "What a Crew Can Expect From the Driver", regarding the race track. This had to do with the race car driver keeping his crew happy enough to come back & do it again! In "Pit Stop Prattle", Jarve Wickes became the new Contest Board Rep., as Martin Tanner had resigned the position. Jarve also congratulated several new drivers for getting through their first "driver's school" at Waterford Hills Race Track. That included Joan Fahlgren, the first lady driver in SVR, driving a Mini Cooper 1300S; Ken Morris in an AH Sprite; Al Ruppenthal in a Corvair; & Tom Groening in an AH Sprite. The "First Rally" of the season was won by Dave Kirby & Charles Raley of Midland; Ken & Ann Himmelein came in 2<sup>nd</sup> of 34 cars entered. Vicki Hammond was collecting stamps, (remember the S&H stamps, Green Stamps, etc.) in hopes of purchasing a portable generator for the club. Tom Hudak & Harold Nadler finished first and Bert & Jerry Pat Miller finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 19 cars in a recent Rallygators rally. Don Jekel was the Gymkhana organizer for this year and looking for your ideas for event sites.

### **40 Years Ago April, 1977**

The 100 Acre Wood Pro Rally, Rolla, MO., was won by John Buffum & Vicki in their Porsche

Carrera. Future events would be run in a new Triumph TR 7. SVR's Walt Krafft, Hinsdale, IL. & John Smiskol, MI. came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in their Datsun 260Z. This rally was said to be one of the roughest events in the series as 27 teams started but only nine finished and none from Michigan. The Schlick Schtick Rallye by Don Jekel was won by Barb & Jim Doidge. Third place went to Sue Smith & Jon Nykamp. For Sale in the Checkpoint: unlimited quantities of Gates Commando Snow Tires, D70 x 13, be the first on your block...call Chuck Fortino or Brian Rebney.

### **30 Years Ago April, 1987**

SVR sponsored a bowling party at the Garden Lanes on Bay Rd., with pizza & beer at the Rueters later. Sixteen members participated, more than show up for the General Meetings! This issue had Regional, Central & National schedules for Solo II, Road Race & Pro Rallies for the year. Jim Harrison was selling his 1983 RX7 with only 28000 miles...and driven only on weekends. Velma Boreen was taking Pre-Registration for Solo II events, 5 for \$25.00 and a free copy of the 1987 SCCA Solo II Rule Book.

### **20 Years Ago April, 1997**

In Left Field, Dave Feighner did his "Who to Watch in 97". The Hub Tire/Subway Solo II Series was announced. Dave Feighner wanted to know what was in the water. It seems that three out of four women in the F-Stock Ladies Class, recently became pregnant! Congratulations to Michelle Siniff, Barb Horning and Linda Barnes. And, congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Todd Robbins on the birth of their daughter

Lilian, born March 10. Tom Hudak published "How to Run a Rally", for those who would be interested in doing the the Spring Tune Up event on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bev Hall was taking Pre-Registration for Solo II's, 5 events for \$60.00.

Harvey in his Mitsubeagle won his class with a 75.222.

SVR had 97 members.

## **10 Years Ago**

**April, 2007**

Dave Feighner wrote about "clubbies"...i.e. SVR people belong to a club, so we are all "clubbies". SVR was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year in SCCA. Dave and Lorien also went to the SCCA National Convention in San Antonio, TX. After listening to several discussions, Feighners determined that many of the small clubs had similar problems, but SVR had fewer problems. SCCA was looking to keep its members & SVR was looking to gain new members and new ideas.

The SVR February 10<sup>th</sup> Rallycross was held at Crystal Race track, Crystal, MI. Twenty-eight cars participated in seven different classes. All drivers got 8 runs. Not only did Dave Feighner win his stock front wheel drive class, (in Lorien's Subaru Legacy GT) but he had the fastest accumulated (395.157) score of all other cars! Other winners were Doug Harvey (430.667) 1<sup>st</sup> & Les Francisco (438.989) 2<sup>nd</sup> in Doug's Chevy Cavalier in SF. Chris Holm (453.501) 2<sup>nd</sup> in RPF in his Mazda Protégé and Scott Harvey (412.942) 1<sup>st</sup> in his Mitsubeagle Eclipse in RMA class.

Fifteen cars ran the February 24<sup>th</sup> Ice Run at the Saginaw Bay. David Chapp took 1<sup>st</sup> in his BMW330XI AWD with Matt Price 2<sup>nd</sup> in a GMC Envoy. Very close times of 79.079 & 79.626. Doug Harvey won FWD in his Chevy Cavalier with an 83.978 and Scott

# OSCODA IN MAY – May 19 – 21

## Test & Tune May 19, Events 3 & 4 May 20-21

Saginaw Valley SCCA

SCCA Solo Autocross

# Autocross at Wurtsmith AFB

Oscoda, Mi

Event Date:

Registration - 9:00-10:00 am Tech Inspection - 9:30-10:00 am  
Novice Walk - 10:15 am, Drivers Meeting - 10:30 am  
First Car Off - 11:00 am



From Oscoda on US-23 take F41 NW 2.5 miles past the main entrance of the AFB (N. Skeel Ave) to an access gate in the fence. Enter the base and continue NW on the Perimeter Rd. almost a mile to N. Swise Rd. (just before a large grove of trees). Take N. Swise Rd. Left (SW) about 1/2 mile to a large paved area and then turn NW through some more gates. You are ready to race. See the SVR webpage for information and restrictions about camping on the base.



Please see our website for more information and last minute changes  
<http://www.svr-scca.com>  
Sports Car Club of America

**Look for minutes of February & March meetings next issue.**



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