



THE PYLON

GULF COAST REGION 12



<http://www.gulfcoastregionscca.org>

APRIL 2009

COMMENTS FROM THE R. E.

It is April, beginning of spring and, of course, tax time. With all the turn down in the economy and layoffs there will be less for the taxman this year.

So far this year our Solo events have been successful no small part to the participation of our members and guests. Joe Ricard continues to make small changes to the program to accommodate the track and the participants. As I have said before, if you have an interest, come by and join in the activities.

I am still working on the details for a "Street Survival" event. I am retiring from active work this month so I should have a little more time to pull this together.

The remainder of the SEDIV events, Time Trials, Rally cross, and Club Racing are now in full swing. For the race schedules go to <http://www.sedivracing.org/2009Schedule.pdf>. There is a Time Trial event scheduled for the 18th and 19th of April at Talladega Grand Prix Track. I believe there is also a Divisional Solo event later this month.

See you at the meeting. AL



2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regional Executive
Al Mitchell
mit2211@bellsouth.net

Secretary
Mike Dorohoff
dorohoff1@excite.com

At-Large Director
Richard Felis
miataxer@aol.com

Asst Regional Executive
Paul Neal
pwneal157@cox.net

Treasurer
Walt Wurzbach
wurzbach@gulftel.com

At-Large Director
Bob Lembcke
LembckeR1@ASME.org

2009 COMMITTEES

Solo Events
Joe Ricard
joseph.ricard@ngc.com

Newsletter
Roberta Speh
rjaquilter@gmail.com

new e-mail

March 2009 Club Meeting

The meeting was held at Ryan's in Pensacola with 7 members and 2 guests in attendance. R.E. Al Mitchell called the meeting to order. The Minutes of the February meeting were approved. Treasurer Walt Wurzbach submitted the treasurer report. The balance as of March 19, 2009 is \$8248.90, up \$118 for the year (that is before the March Solo entry fees are deposited).

Pylon:

The Pylon editor, Roberta, would like to know what type of articles the members would like to see in future issues. Some suggestions are: course design criteria, safety issues, car class & prep information, etc. Please contact her via e-mail or post suggestions on the forum (under this thread: February Club Meeting). She is currently expecting a report on the most recent Solo National Tour (Dixie Region) where Mike Dorohoff and Eric Trigg competed.

Solo:

Double Registration(DR)///Extra Runs(ER)
To eliminate any confusion that one needs to register twice, DR runs will be referred to as Extra Runs (ER). This has been a successful program and some suggestions were made for improvement: monitor worker time (limit the number of ER entrants when a set number of drivers is reached (30-35 drivers) and continue to announce the details of ER before the event so everyone at the event knows that some cars will be doing ER.

Karts: Discussion was held regarding allowing karts to run at our autocross events. We would like to get input from all of the members regarding event layout, new sites, participation numbers, and whether junior karts would be involved. Our current run space at SSR would be reduced further as karts require a 50 foot safe zone vs 25 feet for cars.

Pylons/Cones: Walt will order 40 pylons from SCCA at 20 for \$105 plus shipping and have them shipped directly to Joe Ricard.

Loaner Helmets: Bob Lembcke donated one and Al Mitchell donated two. If you have a helmet to donate, please bring it to the next meeting or solo event.

Scales/Corner-Weights at SSR: Cost is \$10. If you can't make the event, Ron Davis recently purchased scales and can offer the same services. His shop, B&M, is located at 4117 N. Palafox St. in Pensacola, Florida (850-434-0897).

Solo Discount: Several members took advantage of this "bring a friend/spouse/newbie" discount at the February event.

Trailer Maintenance: Joe is maintaining the trailer.

Submitted by Mike Dorohoff
Secretary for Gulf Coast Region 2009

March 22 SOLO report

The event started out bright and early Sunday morning with a good crew for event set up. Ed Rushing brought a gang of friends who joined in with our regular bunch to get the entire event set up and starting on time.

36 drivers enjoyed a beautiful spring day, completing 8 runs each. The brilliant course designed by Eric Trigg proved to be challenging and fun for the fast guys as well as the large Novice group. Results can be viewed here: www.gulfcoastregionscca.org/res/2009/2009results.htm.

The hi-lites of the Event were Eric Trigg getting FTD in Ed Rushing's new CSP Miata on fresh tires. In the Open Tire class, Eric was closely followed by Nathaniel Sparks in his white BMW and Joe Ricard in the yellow 914. Street Tires had the usual suspects led by Michael Francavilla in his S2000, Max Bales driving his white Impreza STI. The Ladies class had two drivers: Alex Sparks drove her Acura RSX, finishing ahead of Katie Neal in a pretty quick H-stock Corolla. The Novice class seems to be dominated by Travis Hart and his blue VW R32. Wait till he joins the Street Tire Open even open tire class as Travis will be someone to watch out for.

Next event is April 26 same place same time with another fun course. See you all there. Joe Ricard

HOUSTON NATIONAL TOUR - Report by Joe Ricard

After several weeks of working on me, Eric Trigg finally talked me into co-driving his red CSP Miata. The trip to Houston found me fighting weather all the way Thursday while driving to my cousin's house. If it wasn't raining buckets, it was 40 mph head winds. When I started south towards Houston, the winds were on the side and that's when all hell broke loose. The cover to the truck bed blew off and beat itself to pieces against the truck. I pulled over and wrapped the pieces up, jammed them in the box and got going. Ten minutes later the hard top to the Miata popped up and the wind tried ripping it off.

So, on to the event. Having never driven Eric's car at speed, I can tell you the car is fast on V-tec. But it was weird to me as I have never felt that high RPM boost before. So, 1st run on cold tires, I managed to launch the car without stalling (Woot I'm on my way). Through the sweeper into the big slalom and VVT (Dang I'm really haulin; hope it sticks at the other end). Nope, left foot wrote a check my butt couldn't cash and spun the car. DNFed my 1st run.

Eric is dirty on his runs as we were both fighting a loose car. At the end of the first day, I managed a fraction of a second ahead of Eric to put me in 4th.

Day 2: no rear sway bar 1st run, cold tires and 2 cones (here we go again). The 2nd run was on 105 degree tires real quick after Eric came in. I knew right then this was my chance and I pulled my fastest time that momentarily put me in 2nd place. As the other drivers finished their runs, Eric got to the line with 115 degree tires and a butt load of "go fast" in his pockets. He whooped me and finished the day with a 3rd place, getting himself a trophy. I fell to 5th place when the dust cleared, but still happy with my performance as tire warmer.

Jeff and Roberta Wetzel also competed in the tour and battled a strong field of A Stock drivers. They finished 5th and 6th respectively. I didn't get to watch their runs as I was also in grid, trying

to figure out how to steer the car and not get my fingers to hit the windshield wiper switch.

Ed Rushing in his CSP Miata was also with us and did extremely well, having only started Solo driving in January of this year. His last run on Day 2 was very fast and it was apparent he was having a good time. His hands were shaking and he was talking a mile a minute. We all knew Ed has arrived and will soon be a force to be reckoned with.

Saturday evening was spent with the attending Gulf Coast Region drivers talking cars and enjoying a great dinner. Thanks to Roberta for getting us reservations and directions all with her fancy GPS Thingy.

The run home was also eventful with more wind and the Miata top popping up one more time. In true racer fashion, we taped that sucker down this time.

Detailed results can be found here:

<http://www.scca.com/eventresults.aspx?event=13618&hub=3>

BEEN THERE? DONE THAT?

Write about your event and share it with club members. The Pylon has received some interesting articles but there's a continuing need. As a special incentive the first two articles received by May 5 will receive free tickets to a concert and night of fun on May 16 at Seville Quarter in Pensacola. Email to Roberta rjmquilter@gmail.com

Writing Suggestions?

Was this a new event for you? What motivated you to enter?

What prep work did you do on your car?

Describe the course. What did you like

best about it? What parts were tricky? Problems? Achievements?

What did you learn from the experience?

CLASSIFIED ADS

It's spring cleaning time! Double the benefit: organize your garage/workshop and earn extra cash for new toys by advertising your 'don't need anymore' cars, car parts, tools, etc. in The Pylon (free to members).

Send your email ad to:
rjmquilter@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

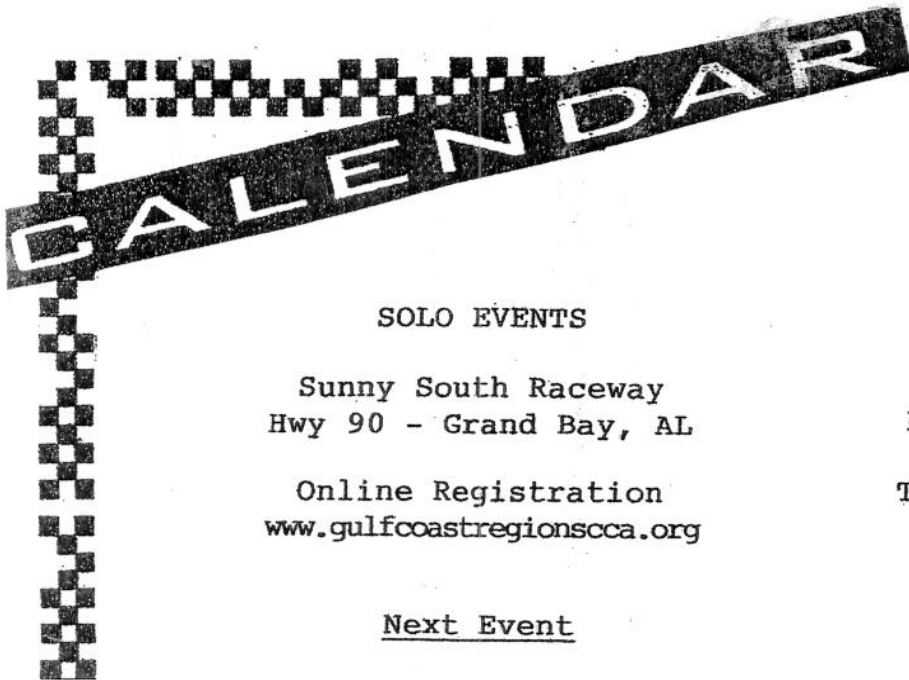
Solo National Tour
May 30-31 Eastern States Championship
Arkansas Aeroplex, Blythville, AK

Time Trials
May 2-3 HC Mars Hills/Central Car.

May 16-17 TT Nashville Sprspdwy/
Chattanooga

May 25 TT Carolina Motorsports Park
S. Carolina

May 31 Road Atlanta/Atlanta



SOLO EVENTS

Sunny South Raceway
Hwy 90 - Grand Bay, AL

Online Registration
www.gulfcoastregionscca.org

Next Event

April 26

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Ryans - Pensacola, FL
Hwy 29N at Walmart Center

Thursday before 4th Sunday

Dinner from 6 - 7 pm
Meeting starts at 7 pm

Next Meeting

April 23