



THE PYLON

GULF COAST REGION 12



NOV 2006

<http://www.gulfcoastregionscca.org>

R.E.DITOR NOTES

Here it is, almost the end of another year ! Another election of officers has gone by the wayside, everyone just insists on keeping everything status quo !

I had hoped that by stating I would not run for RE this year, that someone would take the interest and initiative to step forward and fill the slot. After waiting almost two months, and no one had done so, I elected to withdraw my previous statement about not running in order to keep this Club from just falling apart. Topper had told me time and time again that he would also step down if I did. If the job of RE is forced upon someone, everybody loses, as that individual will not take the needed interest to keep the Club running.

This Thursday, 16 Nov, is our Annual Meeting, as required by our By-Laws. This is the normal time to announce the new slate of officers, and to discuss what is in the future for our Club. It was decided last year, that the Annual Christmas Banquet would no longer happen during the busy Holiday period of Dec. Instead, we had a casual party at a member's house. All of the food was supplied by the Club, and it was deemed a success by those who attended. My question to all is, what do you want to do this year, we need input at this month's meeting in order to get everything planned for Jan. Roger Koby has offered the use of his business in Mobile by offering to rent the tables and chairs. This would necessitate using a caterer for the food and I guess everyone bringing their own eat-

ing utensils. Not having been involved with such a setup, clue me in ! There is a Fish Camp Restaurant located on Hwy 59 in Sumnerdale Al, and they have a large private room available that could easily handle 60 people. If you know of a site that could handle a large group, get some particulars, such as menu, prices and availability.

Ann has requested to have a Safety Steward Seminar prior to the meeting, therefore, if you are planning on becoming a Safety Steward please arrive for the meeting this month at about 6:30 instead of the usual 7:00 PM. This classroom session is mandatory to become a Safety Steward, along with working as an assistant for two events.

When Roberta sent me the minutes this month, she included an article that appeared in the Foley Onlooker. It stated that the Sumnerdale Mayor had been approached by the promoters of the Speedway to find a site there. So we now have two sites in Baldwin County again.!

I want to thank Mike Dorohoff for the article he submitted for this month's newsletter. If you have done ANYTHING that our members might be the least bit interested in, PLEASE submit them to me. Send them via email or even snail mail, we need some input to the newsletter. **Walt W. R.E.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Bal.	9/30/06	\$ 4563.55
INCOME:		
Member Dues	130.00	
Interest Earned	1.28	
		131.28
EXPENSES:		
Pylon	0.0	
		0.0
Ending Bal.	10/31/06	Ending Bal. \$ 4694.83

SOLO II 2007

SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED

New Site must still be found:

**Tech & Registration 8:00 am
Registration closes at 9:00 am**

SCCA Members	\$ 10.00
Active/Retired Military	\$ 15.00
Non-SCCA Members	\$ 20.00

**PLEASE - NO PETS - Also Children MUST
be under adult supervision at ALL TIMES !!**

PLEASE HELP FIND A SITE

COMING EVENTS

Nov 16 2006	Gulf Coast Region Meeting at Fire Mountain 9006 Pensacola Blvd (Hwy 29) 7 PM dinner, 8 PM mtg . This is our annual meeting as specified by our by-laws.
Dec/Jan ?	Annual Party, need some ideas
Jan 20-21 2007	SEDIV Annual Meeting, Jekyll Island, GA Http://www.sedivrac.org for info
Jan 25 2007	Gulf Coast Region Meeting at Fire Mountain 9006 Pensacola Blvd (Hwy 29) 7 PM dinner, 8 PM mtg .
Feb 1-3 2007	SCCA National Convention, San Antonio, TX SCCA.com for info

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(251)945-6150* **THE
PYLON** is the official
publication of the **Gulf
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*Opinions expressed herein
are those of the editors
and authors who have
submitted articles. The
editor reserves the right to
edit all material for
clarity and space. Articles
must be submitted prior to
the 10th of the month to
be included in the current
month's issue.*

CLUB WHEELS:

Regional Executive: Walt O. Wurzbach 13575 Leatherbury Rd. Loxley, AL 36551 (251)-945-6150	Asst. Regional Exec: Topper Jones 10124 Willis Rd. Foley, AL 36535 (251)943-7630	Secretary: Roberta Speh P.O. Box 1203 Foley, AL 36536 (251)943-4114	Treasurer: See R.E. Editor Walt Wurzbach wurzbach@gulftel.com	Area III Director: K.P. Jones 3355 Oakdale Pl. The Villages, FL 32162 (352)-751-5049
Director-at-large: Alan Givens 3217 Copper Ridge Cir Cantonment, FL 32533 (850)982-0394	Director-at-large: Richard Felis 954 Palmetto St Mobile, AL 36604 (251)-432-0025	Solo II Chairman Topper Jones 10124 Willis Rd. Foley, AL 36535 (251)943-7630	Solo II Co-Chairman Richard Felis 954 Palmetto St Mobile, AL 36604 (251)-432-0025	Area XII Director: Kaye Fairer 145 Fenton Place Danville, VA 24541 (434)-793-4235

GULF COAST REGION SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA
Meeting of October 19, 2006

The meeting was called to order by R.E. Walt Wurzbach with 19 people in attendance. The Minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in The Pylon. Walt reported a current balance in the treasury of \$4,648.55.

Reports on Autocross held at Pensacola Fairgrounds from those who attended were given with the consensus being that it was fun, probably rough on formula cars, better than nothing, might be willing to run there again but only on occasional basis. Topper met with the Fairground manager afterward to discuss viability of SCCA running events there. He pointed out that as rough as the course is, there are safety concerns; a lot of cleanup would have to be done (which means getting enough volunteers). He has not ruled it out but there will need to be additional discussions.

Walt commented on resubmitting proposal to Navy. In April, the response was very specific on "no one whatsoever for car events." He will check out if this attitude has changed.

Hillclimb: Richard Felis participated and shared his experiences...also photo of his car in the ditch.

Old Business - Nominating Committee Report: There have been no volunteers for specific positions, so at this point do not have a ballot. Topper suggested that we will need to really utilize volunteers if the current officers are to remain in office. Noted that Walt has been R.E. since 1996.

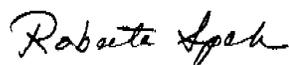
Annual Banquet: The question was put forth: do you want to have it in someone's house or at a restaurant? Also asked for a focus on the banquet since there will not be the usual awards given. Please give feedback to Ann. We need to get moving on this for January.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Attending were:

Walt & Ann Wurzbach, Topper Jones, Jay Scott, Jeff & Roberta Wetzel, Mike Dorohoff, Robert V. Turman, Richard Felis, Daniel Blenis, Raymond Worden, Gary Worden, Roberta Speh, Paul & Christine Neal, Jon Pech, Jack Handy, Steven Taylor. Allen Givens. -

Submitted by,

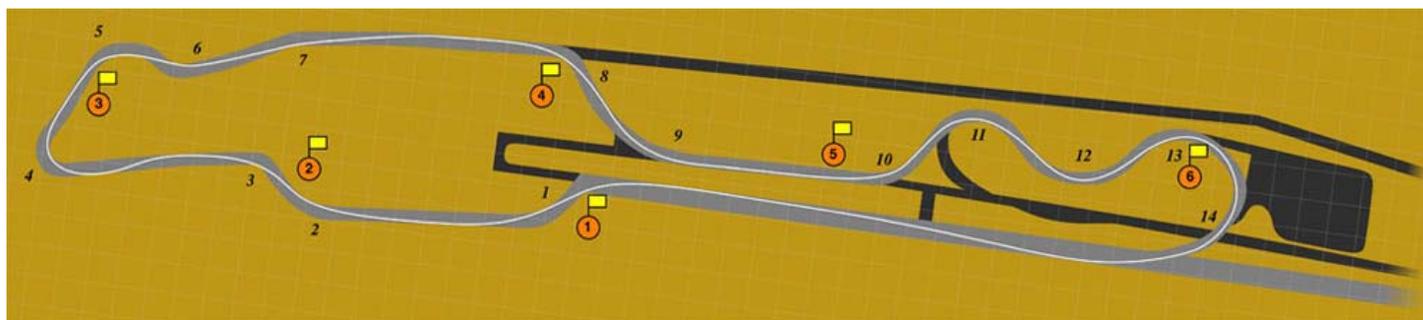


Roberta Speh, Secretary

Track Day at No Problem Raceway

My wife and I (Jenn & Mike Dorohoff) took her 2006 Mini Cooper S to No Problem Raceway, just west of New Orleans, for a track event organized by Strange Concepts, a tuner shop in Mississippi. The cost was \$130 per driver, but since our car was a doubledriver, my wife got a discounted rate. The track as shown below has the following data:

Length 1.8 miles, Width 40' minimum - 60' along the drag strip straightaway,
Turns 14, Straightaway 1st - 1,900' / 2nd - 500' / 3rd - 800',
Timing Tower 2nd floor area 20' x 50'
Pitside Suite 25' x 50' with wet bar
Flag Stations 6



The surface was cleaned before we ran by a wire brush equipped tractor and again after someone dropped some wheels off the course and kicked dirt on the track. In typical high-performance-driving-events (HPDE), only a few cars (in this case 5) were allowed on the track at one time and passing was only allowed in two of the straightaways. We had to work one heat at one of the five worker stations/shelters that were protected, covered (no rain or hot sun), and equipped with all the relevant track/safety flags. 25-30 cars participated and ranged from stock Honda Civics and BMWs to modified cars for track-duty only. To even things out, cars were suppose to line up in run groups with similar performing cars, so stock cars run together and track cars are in another group. A run session consisted of a warm-up lap, 5 hot laps, and a cool down lap. At the start of each session, cars were spaced out about 20 seconds or so. That coupled with only 5 cars on the track at a time, allowed the drivers to focus more on the track than the other cars running. We had the track from 8am – 4:30 pm. The first real session probably started around 9am and most people got their fill by 3pm. I would have kept running till 4:30, but the tires and my wife were ready to go at 3.

Car background:

My wife previously owned a 2004 Mini Cooper (non-S) with an automatic. It was the first car I truly autocrossed and was a blast to drive...although underpowered for straight line performance. The run-flat tires were quite expensive and heavy, so I scored a set of Mini 15" phone dial rims with brand new tires on ebay for cheap. The ebay tires were 175mm wide all season tires, so they were pretty poor for autocross. On the flip side, crappy tires force the driver to

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pay closer attention to the tire/road grip, which should translate in the search for the smoothest line. These tires were pretty much shoulderless after a season of Bronson autocrosses with two drivers. Once again, the new Mini came with expensive run-flat tires, so the bald, shoulderless, all-season, narrow tires were put on again, this time for a track event.

With my wife and I both in the car, the curb weight of ~2500 lbs probably jumped up to 2800 lbs. The Mini S is a supercharged dohc inline-4 1.6L with 163hp 155 ft-lb. and a 6-speed manual. Needless to say, when straightening the curves over a run session the tires got hot and slippery. We ran the track in a clock-wise fashion, so by the end of the day, the left-front tire's plies were showing and the others were not far off. To ensure we made it home with the same car, we packed 2 of the factory 17" wheels with the run-flat tires. This was not only a good idea because of the track event, but also because we planned to visit New Orleans the rest of the weekend...and everyone living around the gulf knows about post hurricane debris.

Results:

Overall, we had a great time! My wife was hesitant to push her NEW car too hard, but she didn't complain too much if I did. As such, she spent most of the time riding in the scary seat with me at the wheel. The Mini did a great job catching up to much faster cars in the turns, e. g. BMW M5, but passing on straightaways was difficult given the power differences. The consensus seemed to be if you were holding up a much faster car/driver, let them pass on the straightaway, even if your corvette can blow their doors off. If a driver wasn't aware that they were the lead car in what was starting to look like a parade lap, then they got flagged to allow others to pass or to come into the pits for a refresher on what a HPDE was all about. These refreshers seemed to be a great way to keep everyone in line when the fuel and adrenaline started flowing. As for posted results, there are none. A HPDE is not a race or a competitive timed event, although you're welcome to have a friend clock you. HPDEs are about improving driver skill, testing a car's limits, and enjoying the layout of the track. I admit it would be nice to compare lap times or see what the fastest lap of the day was, but I was pleased nonetheless.

Possible future events?:

The organizer, Adam Strange, has done this event before and plans to run it again in May 2007. With about 25 cars running at \$130 each, that's \$3250. That's just an estimate, and I'm not sure what it costs for a club to rent the track or the cost of additional insurance. However, while talking to a driver in a Camaro track car, he said his family was renting the track the following day for \$125/hour for 4 hours, which included the ambulance and all other fees. They've done it several times in the past. If that's the case perhaps we, as the Gulf Coast Region or as just a small, non-affiliated group, might consider organizing a HPDE at No Problem Raceway.

CLASSIFIEDS

"Going out of the Fiat Business" Sale. For sale, a 1983 Fiat/Bertone X1/9 (yellow) D Street Prepared Autocross car. A 1988 Fiat X1/9 street car. Both need work. A very nice, medium size, light weight, single axle, tilt car trailer. Over \$ 3000 worth of new and used, stock, high performance and racing Fiat X1/9 parts. All for **\$ 3500**, you load and remove. For more information call Anthony McIntire "Mac" at (850) 458-6060.

2002 Mercedes Benz C230 Kompressor- Supercharged four cylinder with a 6-spd manual transmission and traction control. Loaded, black-on-black with cloth interior. Dealer maintained with new tires. 37,000 original miles with an extended warranty good until 2009. Fun to drive and 21 plus mpg city. \$14,500 Call "Mac" at (850) 458-6060.

1999 Miata, Tenth Anniversary Edition, 6 speed, new bright blue paint and black canvas top, AC, power options, two tone leather interior, comes with second set of wheels, Hard Dog Roll Bar, harness, after market big front sway bar, custom lighter exhaust, Bilstein shocks, sport suspension, Thorsen differential, driven a lot in short 60 second bursts, pretty car, fun to drive, 100% SCCA Stock. \$7000 firm, 251-947-7965, Gerald Reyenga

Please see the latest issue of the Solo Safety Belt at:

[http://ams.scca.com/netforum/eweb/dynamicpage.aspx?](http://ams.scca.com/netforum/eweb/dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=newsletter&newsletter=SafetyBelt)

[webcode=newsletter&newsletter=SafetyBelt](http://ams.scca.com/netforum/eweb/dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=newsletter&newsletter=SafetyBelt)

OR go to SCCA.com/Membership Log In and click on "Newsletters". Here you will find links to the latest web formatted issue and a downloadable .pdf of the same great newsletter.

To REs, Assistant REs, Treasurers, Webmasters and Editors,

Please see the note below regarding our new SCCA Collection of branded merchandise. The SCCA is very excited to be working with Imperial Marketing. They bring a new and expanded capability to the SCCA Merchandising program, and as our relationship with Imperial marketing grows you will see the SCCA Collection product line expanding into useful, fun, and exciting products. Show the racing world that the SCCA is the premier motorsports organization in North America!

"We are pleased to let you know we have a new vendor for your SCCA merchandise and supplies, Imperial Marketing.

To view merchandise, go to www.sccacollection.com or to our website www.scca.com and click on the "merchandise" link. NOTE: this site and its prices are for individuals only.



Membership Application

Dear Prospective SCCA Member:

To apply for membership in the Sports Car Club of America, the world's largest member participation automotive organization, please complete the form below in full and return, with payment, to your region or the SCCA Membership Department, P.O. Box 19400, Topeka, KS 66619-0400.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____ Telephone (____) _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ County _____

E-mail _____

Single Married Spouse's Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

Spouse Member Number If Current Member _____

IF APPLYING FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (husband/wife and children), list names and ages of children under age 21:

03 Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

04 Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

05 Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

06 Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

Have you been an SCCA member before? No Yes: Year _____ Previous Member No. _____

Please send me a Crew License (check box)

PRIMARY INTEREST(S) IN SCCA:

Please indicate the area(s) of SCCA in which you plan to participate, or which interest you most. Your response will be used to allocate your national dues to the areas you indicate. Thank you.

Club Racing Pro Racing ProRally RoadRally Solo

	Annual National Dues		Annual Regional Dues		Total
01	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member \$60.00	+	Regular Member \$15.00	=	\$ 75.00
03	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Member \$20.00	+	Spouse Member \$ 5.00	=	\$ 25.00
10	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$95.00	+	Family Membership \$20.00	=	\$115.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> First Gear \$ _____	+	First Gear (Reg. dues) \$ _____	=	\$ 45.00
	(you must be 21 and under)				

National Office Use Only

C- _____ \$ _____
 C- _____ \$ _____
 C- _____ \$ _____

Source

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____ U.S. DO NOT SEND CASH.

VISA MC No. _____ Expiration Date _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Sports Car Club of America, Inc. and its GULF COAST / # 12
 Region and agree to abide by the bylaws. (Region Name/Number)

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

*Dues include payment for subscription to SportsCar (\$24 value)
 (Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions)*