

YELLOWSTONE REGION SCCA FAST TIMES

P.O. Box 30956 • Billings, Montana 59107

January, February & March 1998

1998 FIRST THREE MONTHS OF

The January meeting was called to order by RE: Dwight Gilliland

Minutes were approved as printed in last newsletter.

New Business:

Kurt Schulz has volunteered and has registered for the SCCA Convention in Colorado. Bill Schaff moved to approve \$200 over and above the \$300 rebate for sending a delegate. Approved.

The WEB site is still in the works and we should be on line soon.

Old Business:

Dave Eberts reported on computer software to update our timing system. We decided not to commit to anything until after the convention when more packages can be discussed with the vendors. Dave Eberts will head the committee and a lap top computer.

Dave Eberts moved we adjourn, Bill Schaff seconded.

The February meeting was called to order by RE: Dwight Gilliland

Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business:

Kurt Schulz spoke on the upcoming SCCA Convention. He mentioned the seminars that he will attend and took comments on what we would like to see changed.

Dave Eberts brought the new lap top computer to display and mentioned his preference for having a timing system professionally built instead of building our own.

Bill Schaff moved that Dave Eberts be authorized to purchase a mouse and power adapter to complete the computer setup, seconded-passed.

New Business

Dave Eberts took suggestions for the 1998 schedule.

Discussion on a possible event in Red Lodge at the Ski Resort parking lot. Mike Atkinson

broke ground and has a preliminary approval. A letter must be sent with insurance information to the Forest Service. Donna Hager has volunteered to get a schedule of events from the Chamber of Commerce at Red Lodge, so we can coordinate with a planned weekend event.

Dale Dinsmore will try to get dates at Lewistown for two events.

Bill Schaff moved we adjourn, Dwight Gilliland seconded.

The March meeting was called to order by RE: Dwight Gilliland

Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business:

Dave Eberts checked into software for the timer. It will be just under \$950 for lights, interface and software from Gary Poole in Washington. Kurt Schulz moved to buy the system and Dave Eberts seconded-all approved.

Dave Eberts is still checking into a 12 volt converter if any one knows of one please call Dave Eberts at 252-4717. Dave Eberts moved we purchase deep cycle batteries for the computer. Kurt Schulz seconded-all approved.

As our Comp Chairman Dave Eberts has been busy confirming all of this years events. It seems as though the schedule is full, good work Dave! There's even a possibility of using the airport runway in Bozeman for May 17th.

New Business

Kurt Schulz reported on the convention. One of several topics that he brought up was member retention. We are going to work harder on this year getting members and introducing them better into the club.

Kristi Gilliland brought up the idea again of the membership brochure and will work with Bill Witcher on getting it together.

Insurance audit fee's and memberships will all be going up this year. Autocross prices, however will probable remain the same to our members.

Bill Schaff moved we adjourn, Kristi Gilliland seconded.

RE NOTES

1998 looks like it will be a busy race year for all of us and should be a fun one. Dave Eberts has done a great job of coordinating dates to available asphalt to race on. We will have some different locations to race at, some being out of town.

Our timing system is being upgraded this year too. This will allow us hopefully quicker registration as well as some different stop and finishing lines. This is a big step for us and I think we will all like the timing system once we get it into play.

I would like to thank Kurt Schulz for going down to the Regional Convention in Colorado, he came back with some wonderful ideas that I hope the club can put to use!

A congratulation to our newsletter publisher, Kristi Gilliland, for her fine work she did last year on the newsletters. She took third place out of 38 in the small region newsletter contest. Good job! All contributions are very much appreciated, its a great way to communicate with 80 other auto enthusiasts on the SCCA mailing list. Write up your thought and send or call them to Kristi at 1141 Wicks Lane, Billings, MT 59105, 259-0358. She'd really appreciate your input too.

More than ever we need all members to be active. There is a tremendous amount of opportunity for the club to grow, so get active chair or co-chair an event help with timing and most important if a first time racer shows up to an event, help them out by showing them the course talking to them about lines, and most important make them feel welcome.

Those of you who haven't attended a monthly meeting are missing a chance to get your two bits in, plan an autocross, and help decide where and what the club should do or go to next, your opinion counts. Come and share an evening with your auto-enthusiasts share your stories, good food, a drink or two, we all enjoy the evening. Meetings are held the first Wednesdays of every month at Bruno's on first Ave. at 7:30, the next meeting will be April 1, no fooln'!

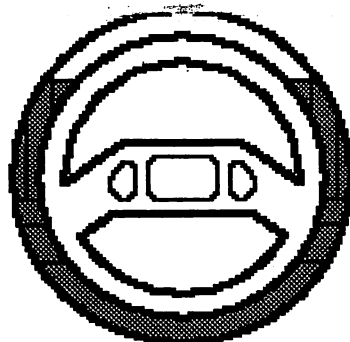
Well it's less than a month before the first race, so you better go take a peak under the hood and see what needs to be done. Hope to see you at the next meeting or at the race.

Dwight Gilliland
Yellowstone Region RE

CHECK IT OUT BEFORE YOU GET TECHED

Okay so since the last race of the season last year you took your race car home and put it in the far corner of the garage or better yet the backyard and you haven't looked at it since. There is less than a month to get it together and not only wash and shine her but to do some fine tuning so you won't be late off the start line. Here is a quick check list of thing to go over and check before your car gets teched for the season.

- Snell 85 helmet for autocross or 90+ for road racing
- Battery hold downs
- Wheel bearings adjusted
- Good seat belts
- Good brakes
- No fluid leaks under the engine
- No hub caps
- No loose items in the car
- Tires have good rubber



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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| April 1 | Monthly Meeting • 7:30pm
Bruno's on 1st Avenue |
| April 26 | Skyview Falcon Finale Race
at Wicks in the Heights |
| May 6 | Monthly Meeting • 7:30pm
Bruno's on 1st Avenue |

TENTATIVE EVENTS

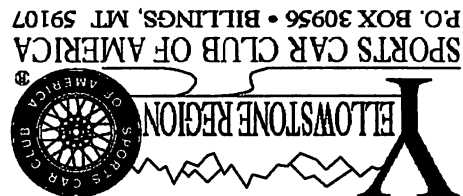
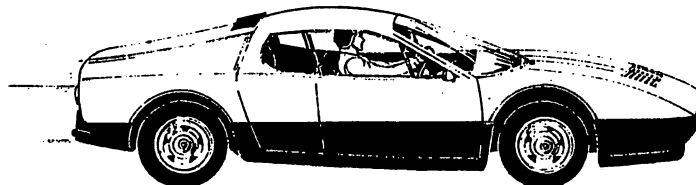
Here is the Yellowstone Region's 1998 tentative schedule. Most of the dates are confirmed and the first race is at Skyview for the Falcon Finale on April 26. There will be another schedule printed up next month with everything confirmed.

April 26	Skyview Falcon Finale
May 17	Colestrip
May 25	Costco
June 14	Lewistown Raceway
June 28	Columbus Town Pump
July 12	Eagle Hardware
July 18-19	Top Gun in Helena
Aug. 1	Costco-night event
Aug. 9	Skyview High School
Aug. 22-23	Black Otter Hillclimb
Sept. 6	Lewistown Raceway
Sept. 13 or 20	Wal-Mart

PRE-REGISTRAR FOR THE RACE SEASON

Dave Eberts has asked if everyone could give him some help on getting people preregistered for the 1998 race year. We have purchased a lap top computer and he would like to get everyone's information put into the computer so it will save us time when we register at the first event. Once you are in our computer we will save all information so throughout the year if you change cars or class you will need to let the registrar know so they can change it in the computer. If you could please fill out the following information and drop it off to Dale Dinsmore at BAP 923 2nd Ave., or even call Dave Eberts with the information at 252-4717 he would appreciate your help in saving time.

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____
 SCCA Member # _____ Drivers Lic. # _____
 Car Make/Model _____ Class _____ Car # _____



1998 SCCA NATIONAL CONVENTION

I'll try to follow the events as they happened.

THURSDAY NIGHT

There was a welcome party sponsored by BF Goodrich. I met and spent some time talking to some Rocky Mountain Division members.

FRIDAY MORNING

Annual meeting and the breakfast with the Board of Directors. Highlights are as follows. SCCA inc. lost approximately \$13,000 the last year. To stop this loss the Board of Directors voted to raise the membership fees by \$5 each. Solo II audit fees will go to \$2, up from \$1.25. It was stated that the Solo department lost \$71,000 last year and will lose over \$115,000 in this coming year. Much of this loss comes from assigned overhead that Solo must pay. The Board of Directors feel the audit fee increase will cover much of this shortfall. The Board also is hiring a marketing biz to help Solo make money by getting sponsors for national events.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After some bad lunch I went to Track Review Training. This was put on by Alan Wilson. Alan is one of only two track inspectors of SCCA. I took a lot of notes on what he likes and will pass them on to the Billings Motorsports Park as soon as I can.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Solo Event Board held a Town Hall Meeting. The biggest news was the go-cart status. We no longer need special review to have carts at an event. The new forms have a box to check if we are having carts. After that all we need to do is follow the cart class rules. The people who are handling the arrive-and-drive carts gave a short talk and from what I gathered, SCCA national is going to subsidize the purchase of a junior cart by the regions. There was a general opinion that the 12 to 15 year age group was to old. Although some wanted 5 year olds in carts, most felt 8 was a good age to start. If we want this change, letters need to be sent to the Board of Directors and the Solo Event Board asking for the change.

Next came the Comp Board Town Hall Meeting. As usual when that many racers get together there is a bunch of whinnying. Someone complained his \$12,000 transmission was not a comp advantage and should not get weight add on (he won the RUNOFFS this year). The old Sport Renault racers expressed discontent because they had no place to race their cars (I agree with them) I stood up and complained about the lack of comp adjustments to the Rabbits in production.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

I went to a VERY good block on Keeping Members. I have a lot of notes and ideas to bring to the meeting. SCCA is now 54,000 members. Last year we got 11,000 new members in SCCA. We also lost 10,750 members. If we can keep more members than we lose, we will grow.

SUNDAY EVENING

The Board of Directors Banquet was interesting. I shared the table with Lindsay Wilson, the new Rocky Mountain Division Director. He said job number one is to keep the Rocky Mountain Division. There are still some who want to split this division up. The keynote speaker was Desire Wilson, one of the few women to ever race FL.

Kurt Schulz
 Yellowstone Region Representative
 and avid racer

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