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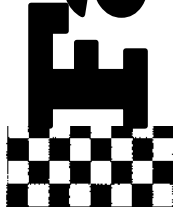
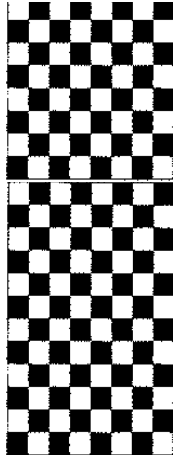
Competition Chairman
Jerod Staebler
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Secretary/Treasurer
J. Reuss
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Membership Chairperson
Katie Cranston
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Jan./Feb. 2009



Meeting Minutes:

Yellowstone Region 108 - Dec. and Jan. Meetings

Monthly membership meetings of the Yellowstone Region SCCA were called to order by Regional Executive Scott Cranston on December 3, 2008, and January 7, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the GH&R Law Firm conference room.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: A motion was MS&P to accept without addition or correction the minutes of the November 2008 meeting as published in the December 2008 issue of *Fast Times*.

Treasurer's Reports: Secretary/Treasurer J. Reuss reported that all bills were paid and a few deposits were received from SCCA for membership renewals. Motions were MS&P to accept the Treasurer's Reports for December and January.

Old Business: No competing bids were received for the Region's generator, so it was sold to J. Scott agreed to deliver same the next time he headed to (or past) Laurel.

New Business: The following individuals were elected by acclamation for the indicated positions; Scott Cranston—Regional Executive; Chris Brewer—Asst. R.E.; Jerod Staebler—Competition Chairman; J. Reuss—Sec./Treasurer. The Member-at-Large will be filled by appointment of the Board. J. reported that he was preparing an outline of the Solo Safety Steward rules and requirements and would circulate same as soon as it was completed. Scott thought it would be beneficial to check the renewal dates of all the Region members to see if adjustments could be made to avoid "gaps" in membership midway through the solo season. Chris reported that he talked to SCCA and membership renewal dates can be moved 3 months either way. J. prepared a spreadsheet showing all Region members and their renewal dates and forwarded same to all officers. J. moved to purchase SCCA and Solo stickers to hand out at events to participants. Some stickers could also be available for sale. The motion passed. Chris and Jerod reported that they were working on the 2009 solo schedule and would have some rough dates by the February meeting. A discussion was held about holding a night autocross this year at GM Petroleum because of the available lighting. A "ladies-only" autocross/driver's school was also discussed.

Motions were MS&P to adjourn the meetings at approximately 7:15 and 7:00 p.m.

News from the Coasts — From the Webmaster

Those checking the Region's website recently have noticed the epitome of a "blank-eating grin." Our very own Jake Brown journeyed recently to Laguna Seca in California with his family. Jake's dad, Mark, sent me a couple "teaser" photographs with a promise of more photos and a story of the trip. The photo of Jake on the masthead shows him trying the Dyson Racing's Le Mans Prototype Porsche RS Spyder "on for size."



From the other coast, I received a report recently from former Region member Lara Tallman crossing the start-finish line at Daytona during practice for the Koni Challenge Series Race. Unfortunately, the Honda was totaled while being driven by another driver in practice and Lara didn't get to participate in the race. Lara's race team had another vehicle in the race that finished a decent 17th in the GS class. Lara reported that the track at Daytona is a fun place to drive and the Civic was showing some real potential until a renter in the Civic lost it in the kink and ended

up hitting the wall a couple of times. team's site at: Check Lara's blog for a link to her www.laratallman.blogspot.com



Cranston's Corner — From the RE

I am writing this month's column (as usual) on my Blackberry on the way back from the inauguration in Washington, DC. Although life inside the Beltway is always exciting, it's good to get back home.

I am certain you all have the 65th National Convention on your calendars. The convention will be held in Las Vegas, NV, February 19-21, 2009. Log on to SCCA.com and get the full event details, including schedules and lodging information. Hope to see ya there!

As most readers are aware, I am quite the technophile and always on the lookout for cutting-edge electronic technology. This past month I came across a real gem that deserves a mention in this month's column. Red Lion Interactive is distributing wireless computer mice shaped like muscle cars. Left or right clicks are done by pressing on the left or right front of the hood. The spot where the shaker hood would be is where the scroll wheel pops out. The headlights even work. You can't buy "Road Mice" from Red Lion Interactive's website, but I found them for sale on buy.com and Amazon. There are a variety of Mustang, Camaro, and other models. (Check out the picture on the right.) S.C.

What's Brewin'? — From the Asst. RE

Farewell to Eastern Idaho SCCA! No, they're not going anywhere, but National SCCA has decided to make the EISCCA—the "Fightin' Eastern"—a region in its own right. For those who have been with the Region for awhile, you will recall when Region 108 "gave birth" to the Southwest Montana Region—although that analogy is probably not completely accurate. Anyway, we wish the best to Idaho Falls-based Region currently headed up by Cal Craner, Tommy Taylor, Dave Krekel, and John Atcheson, and hope that they stop in sometime when they are in the area. Of course, we will continue to post their events on our calendar and hope they will do the same on their website.

Like Scott Cranston, I spend quite a bit of time on the Internet looking for what's new. A site I found recently is RacingHelmetGuide.com. The site was developed by another favorite of mine, SoloRacer.com, a leading provider of auto racing safety equipment. This site contains everything you ever wanted to know about helmets. It also allows you to shop by price, type, brand, and you can even blog about helmets—that is if you have no life whatsoever. There are quite a few closeout helmets available at super-reasonable prices and there is also a link to RacingTireGuide.com, another cool site.

Roddin' with J-Rod — Comp. Chair

I haven't got the 2009 Solo calendar finalized just yet, but I note that Southwest Montana (Bozeman) has posted its 2009 schedule online. Bozeman's earliest event is on April 18-19 in Helena and is described as a "Tri-Region Event." Bozeman's events rotate between Helena, MSU (after college is out for the summer), and the Ice Gardens. There is an EVO school listed for May 30-31, but the location is not identified. There is a divisional scheduled for Helena on August 1-2 and Top Gun is scheduled for August 15-16. Looking at the SCCA schedule, I note that the Western States Solo Championship will take place on August 1-2 in Vail, CO, and the SCCA National Solo Championship will be held at the Lincoln Airpark in Lincoln, NE, from September 8th through the 11th. Keep checking the Region's website for updates. Around my house, the summer schedule fills up fast. J.S.

The Finish Line — From the Webmaster

Every true sports car enthusiast has seen the 1971 movie, *Le Mans*, starring Steve McQueen. *Le Mans* was one of the first movies that focused on racing rather than sappy love stories or moody Method acting. However, an upcoming feature-length documentary promises to give *Le Mans* a run for the money. The new film is titled *Truth in 24* and chronicles Audi's battle in the 2008 Le Mans race to beat the faster Peugeots. The movie will debut on cable network ESPN at 6:00 p.m. March 20, 2009, the night before the ALMS opener in Sbring. The movie will also be in selected theaters. The movie was produced by Intersport and NFL Films. Audi refuses to dis-

close how much it cost to produce the film. The filming started at Sebring in March, then to St. Petersburg, Monza, and Le Mans for test days. During the 24-hour race itself, they had eight cameras running continuously. In all, 200 hours of film was used to assemble the movie which includes footage inside the Audi race shop. The producers claim that the movie "is not just a car commercial and is sure to become a classic, a rare view into racing that can captivate both enthusiasts and those around them who have never understood their enthusiasm." If you call me on the evening of the 20th, don't be surprised if you get my machine. J.



Monthly Region Meeting
February 4, 2009
GH&R Law Firm
 10 N. 27th Street, Suite 100
 6:30 p.m.

Websites

- Yellowstone Region 108**
www.yellowstonescca.com
- Southwest Montana Region**
www.swmmtscga.org
- Montana Region (Great Falls)**
www.mtscga.com
- Eastern Idaho Sports Car Club**
www.eisccax.com
- Big Sky Region (Missoula/Kalispell)**
www.bigskyregion.org
- Northwest Hill Climb Association**
www.mbahillclimb.org/

Too Much Time on Your Hands?—Google Earth

The 1981 hit from Styx, "Too Much Time on My Hands," came immediately to mind when I found the website gearthacks.com. Most folks who spend any amount of time on the Internet are familiar with Google Earth and have probably downloaded the software. Google Earth Hacks.com is not affiliated with Google or Google Earth in any way other than the former makes use of the latter to accumulate some astounding images from anywhere on earth. To get a quick idea of how the site works, click on "Most Popular" from the home page. One could spend an entire weekend exploring the files on the Popular list, put that aside for a moment and log onto: gearthacks.com/dlcatn26/Auto-Racing-and-Test-Tracks.htm, and prepare yourself to waste some serious time. You will be treated to satellite images of over 300 race courses and test tracks. Each of the files may be downloaded in a variety of formats such as Google Earth or Maps, Microsoft (Virtual Earth), Yahoo Maps, and Google Earth Plug-In. The range of images is astounding from (of course) every NASCAR location to the kart track in Kerpen-Manheim, Germany where Michael and Ralf Schumacher made their first racing experience. Try to think of a track the Google Earth Hacks haven't located. I couldn't. In addition to tracks, there are also some noteworthy locations such as the Lamborghini factory. Have fun! J.

