

Fast Times



Sports Car Club of America - Yellowstone Region 108
<http://yellowstonescca.com>

Showdown on Valley Isle—by the “Real” *Fast Times* Editor

The highlight of driving to a solo event at Maui Raceway Park is watching humpback whales splashing and breaching close to shore. (The low point is nearly driving off a cliff because “someone” was watching the whales rather than the road!) The event was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. When we arrived at 8:30, we were somewhat surprised that there was not a cone in sight! We later learned that 9:00 in “island time” is more like “10:30—maybe.” Nevertheless, we were warmly greeted by Chris Powell who races a very nice EP BMW 535i (see photo on page 2). Our plan to drive a rental Mustang at the Maui SCCA’s February 27th event were dashed when the “team owner” checked into the cost.



As a consequence, dad and I were relegated to a Hyundai Accent sedan—with an automatic, no less!). Notwithstanding, entrant Karl Rohlfing, driver of the beautiful Cobra replica shown at right (photo courtesy of Hughes Photographics), quipped that the Hyundai was a “mean competitor.” Maui SCCA keeps all its equipment in a van which is stored in an old shipping container at the site (see photo on page 2). (The van is just about as wide as the ship-

ping container and Chris is the only member of the group who is skinny enough to climb through the window of the van while it is in the container!) Shortly thereafter, a few other members arrived, and after the club’s lawn mower was dispatched to mow some parts of the course, it started looking like an autocross. The plan was

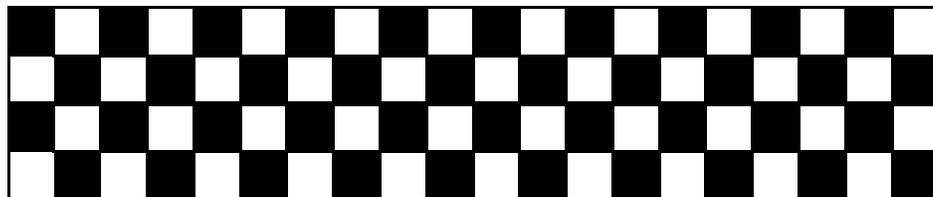
for each of the 11 entrants to take 5 timed runs, and then break for lunch. After lunch was pretty much “open,” but the pavement on the site was pretty rough and chewed up tires pretty quickly. Driving a “strange” car on a “strange” course meant a fair fight between dad and me. (To see who kicked whose butt, log onto <http://mauiscca.net> and click on “Results.”) While you are at the Maui SCCA website, take a moment to check out the fantastic photography of mem-

ber Scott Hughes of Hughes Photographics. Every one of his pictures is a work of art! The only downside with Scott taking pictures at the event is that there are very few “action” photos of his beautiful BMW M3. There were enough MX-5s (3) at the event to give Dean Johnson a run for his money. Maui SCCA has an electronic timing system, but does not use computerized software because turnouts are not usually that large. The event site has two huge trees. One tree shades the start/finish/registration area and the other tree shaded a lucky corner worker—me! When the trade winds are not blowing, it gets mighty hot at the site. So after lunch, we screwed the plates back on the Accent and headed home to the condo

pool. Dad and I had a “gas” racing with Maui SCCA and look forward to doing it again next year. Racing a car that is a low on the totem pole (HS) and has no discernable sway bars, is surely humbling. However, it reminds you that the nice thing about autocross is that you can literally “run what you brung” and have as much fun as everyone else. KBR (Dad wanted me to add that our “piece of crap” was within an inch of rolling over on every run.)

Regional Officers:

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What's Brewin'? — From the RE



We are planning to use the Region's Facebook page this year to post announcements about upcoming events. We will also use the page to disseminate last-minute changes to events such as weather-related problems. If you haven't already done so, navigate your way to Yellowstone SCCA on Facebook and click "Like." For those of you who have been asking, we are still planning a season "kickoff" BBQ, but the date has yet to set. Just when it looks like winter is finally over, I wake up to several inches of snow on my BBQ! If worse comes

to worst, it might take place after the first event. The next membership meeting is April 5th. Among other things, we need to finalize plans for the two-day event(s) in 2011. Since these events are labor-intensive for the Region, we welcome your input. We have gotten quite a bit of feedback that out-of-town racers would attend two-day events because they could justify the long haul with more seat time. The downside is that many Region members cannot commit an entire weekend. I would appreciate your ideas on how we could spread the workload. C.B.



Randy's Ramblin's — From the Comp. Director



Most of the event dates and sites for 2011 have been confirmed, so find them posted on the website and at the bottom-left corner of this page. However, there is always a chance that weather or other conditions might require a change. Make a habit of logging onto our website from time-to-time where we will attempt to keep you up-to-date. From the "countdown timer" on the website, I see that the first solo event is barely three weeks away. Please keep in mind that the event is tentative at this point

because of the weather. As in previous years, we will use the 50-50 rule as a guideline (greater than 50 degrees and less than 50% precipitation usually means "go"). I see that Bozeman has posted its 2011 schedule and that Jay has included their events on the Region website together with dates from Great Falls, the Porsche Club, and other pertinent events. Now is the time to get the dates on your calendar before summer activities get in the way of important things like autocrosses! R.R.



The Finish Line — From the Webmaster



Some readers may recall a web page I posted in 2008 that featured some photos taken by my father in the early 50s at Elkhart Lake, WI (see "News Archives"). The page contained pictures of a variety of Italian sports cars called "Siatas." I was somewhat blown away a few months ago when I received an e-mail from the owner of a website featuring low-production Italian sports cars who asked my permission to post several of the photos on his website. I was totally blown away last month when I received an e-mail from a fel-

low who maintained "The Italian Car Registry" who had also come across my web page. This gentleman, John de Boer, not only knew the owners and drivers of the race cars in the various pictures, but also he provided images from the front and rear covers of the program from the 1951 Elkhart Lake event. Mr. de Boer indicated that he has compiled a registry of Siata cars for more than 30 years and he was very interested in seeking new leads to learning more about my father's car. I will upload his letter to the site with a link. J.



2011 YRSCCA Solo Schedule

Date	Location
April 17	Rimrock Auto
May 1	Food Service
May 29	Skyview H.S.
June 5	Yellowstone Drag
June 19	GM (Fathers' Day)
July 10	Skyview H.S.
July 31	Yellowstone Drag
Aug. 14	GM Petroleum
Aug. 28	Food Service
Sept. 4	Skyview H.S.
Sept. 25	Rimrock Auto

Monthly Region Meeting
April 5, 2011
GH&R Law Firm
 10 N. 27th Street
 Suite 100
6:30 p.m.

Websites

- Yellowstone Region 108 (Billings)**
yellowstonescca.com
- Southwest Montana Region (Bozeman)**
swmtssca.com
- Montana Region (Great Falls)**
mtssca.com
- Eastern Idaho Sports Car Club**
eisccax.com
- Big Sky Region (Missoula/Kalispell)**
bigskyregion.org
- Absaroka Region Porsche Club**
vista.pca.org/abs/index.html