

# Fast Times



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

## Meeting Minutes—April Meeting

The monthly membership meeting of the Yellowstone Region SCCA was called to order by Regional Executive Scott Cranston on April 7, 2010, at 6:25 p.m., in the GH&R Law Firm conference room.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was MS&P to accept without addition or correction the minutes of the March 2009 meeting as published in the April 2010 issue of *Fast Times*.

Treasurer's Report: Sec./Treas. J. Reuss announced the current bank balance and reported that all bills were current. A Motion was MS&P to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: Reese Newman handed out Region "business cards." The 2010 schedule was reviewed. It was noted that an event on our schedule conflicted with a date for "Top Gun." A discussion was held regarding where the events currently labeled "TBA" would be held. Several attendees talked about scouting some new locations. It was agreed that the Mustang, Corvette, and Subaru clubs would be contacted and reminded of the Region's previous offers of reduced entry fees. The upcoming BBQ at Chris Brewer's house was discussed.

New Business: Randy Roberts recommended that the 2010 SCCA helmet rules be double-checked and that new loaner helmets be purchased if the current helmets are too old. Randy also noted that some consideration should be given to renting the Lewistown track to hold a Region event. Randy thought it might give the Region more exposure. Scott commented that the timing trailer should probably be cleaned up before the May 1 event.

A motion was MS&P to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

## Regional Officers:

### Regional Executive:

Scott Cranston

[region-exec@yellowstonescca.com](mailto:region-exec@yellowstonescca.com)

### Asst. Regional Executive:

Dwight Gilliland

[asst-region-exec@yellowstonescca.com](mailto:asst-region-exec@yellowstonescca.com)

### Competition Chairman:

Chris Brewer

[comp-chair@yellowstonescca.com](mailto:comp-chair@yellowstonescca.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer:

J. Reuss

[sec-treas@yellowstonescca.com](mailto:sec-treas@yellowstonescca.com)

### Membership Chairman:

Reese Newman

[member-chair@yellowstonescca.com](mailto:member-chair@yellowstonescca.com)

### Member-at-Large:

Vacant

## Handling Tips—by the Rovin' Regional Reporter

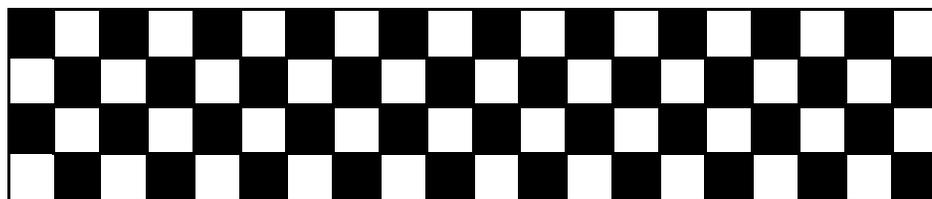
The May issue of *Grassroots Motorsports* contained an article featuring 10 common suspension ills and how to cure them. Here they are in no particular order: (1) Sway-bar bind—grease the bushings, put washers under one or both sides of the saddle brackets, or grind down the flat end of the bushing. (2) Bottoming out—Keep tabs on suspension movement with zip ties wrapped around shock absorber shafts and/or strategically placed modeling clay. (3) Excessive bump-steer—lowering a car can force the suspension to operate in unfamiliar territory. Check the align-

ment on an alignment rack with the suspension fully loaded. (4) Poor alignment—testing is the only way to find camber angles that will keep the tires flat during cornering. (5) Loose or slipping bolts or adjusters—use new factory adjusters and bolts. Paint marks or notches can serve as indicators of movement. (6) Old tires—keep a log for your tires and replace after performance falls off. (7) Too much shock valving—shock valving and spring rates go together. Soft dampers won't control the springs and overly-stiff absorbers can lead to traction issues.

(8) Worn-out suspension parts—have the alignment guy check out the ball joints, tie rod ends and steering racks. Rocking the steering wheel or the road wheels will usually uncover worn-out parts. Even small amounts of play will result in substantial changes in suspension geometry. (9) Useless chassis bracing—to test whether the bar is working or is simply extra weight, loosen one end and apply some paint between the bar and the strut top. After driving around in a circle at the limit of adhesion, see if any of the paint is broken. That is the amount of



flex, if any, you are attempting to reduce. (10) Too much roll stiffness in nose-heavy cars—once the inside rear tire lifts off the ground, the only way to reduce body roll is to add front roll stiffness with front springs or anti-roll bars. Happy handling!

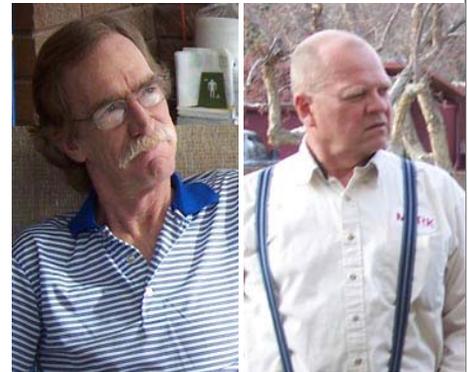




**Cranston's Corner — From the RE**

The SCCA has taken a few steps to lower member fees and bolster their ranks. Family memberships have been lowered from \$101 to \$85 per year. SCCA members who refer a new member will receive \$10 that can be used toward membership dues, SCCA merchandise, or nationally-organized events. Each membership referral also earns an entry into a drawing for a Skip Barber Driving School, a \$1,500 Tire Rack product certificate, and a \$500 merchandise certificate—in that order. Above this column and to the right are a few snapshots taken at the Pre-Season BBQ

held recently at Chris Brewer's house. Kurt Schulz announced his anticipated return to Region events with a V-8 powered, mid-engined Corvair! Mark Richlen announced that work on his Gemini sports racer was progressing nicely and he hopes for an early debut in 2010. Jerod Staebler showed off his drag pickup (and woke up all of Chris' neighbors!) Dwight and Kristi announced that they weren't building any more houses this year and promised to make it to an event or two in their Elan. All in all, a great evening! (Sent from my BlackBerry Smartphone.) SC



**The Finish Line — From the Webmaster**

Those of you who missed the Region's Pre-Season BBQ missed a great Saturday evening. Chris and Sarah Brewer definitely know how to host a relaxing get-together. I hope they will let the Region do it again next year.

I was looking forward to "Opening Day" of the Region's 2010 autocross season. Accordingly, it was with much regret that Scott Cranston, Chris Brewer and I decided to "pull the plug" on the May 1-2 event at GM Petroleum. With cloudy and windy conditions forecast along with high temperatures in the low 50s, I

felt we didn't have much choice. Furthermore, with the Saturday night event starting at 6:00 p.m., we would probably be looking at temps closer to 40 degrees before too long. However, scheduling outside activities in May in Montana is "hit or miss" by any measure. Hopefully it will be sunny and in the 70s on Memorial Day weekend at Skyview.

Randy Roberts e-mailed a flyer advertising a car show at the Billings Career Center on Saturday, May 8, 2010. The flyer states that you can pre-register at [billingscareercenter.com](http://billingscareercenter.com)

or call Joshua George at 281-5382. If members are interested, contact one of the officers and they can line you out with an SCCA banner (or two) for promotional purposes. I note that registration fees are \$10 for pre-registration and \$15 the day of the event. (I recall that the Region helped with entry fees at the former Rimrock Auto Group car show where SCCA banners were displayed and Region event schedules were handed out.) The time is from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and admission is otherwise free. As for me, I will be at the Women's Run working as a course guard. If you would like to help, give me a call. J.

2010 YRSCCA Solo Schedule	
Date	Location
May 1-2	GM (cancelled)
May 15-16	Lewistown (with PCA)
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Skyview H.S.</b>
June 13	GM Petroleum
June 27	RAG Truck Center
July 11	Skyview
July 24-25	Lewistown (with PCA)
Aug. 8	RAG Truck Center
Aug. 21-22	GM Petroleum
Sept. 5	Skyview
Sept. 18-19	Lewistown (with PCA)

**Monthly Region Meeting**  
**May 5, 2009**  
**GH&R Law Firm**  
 10 N. 27th Street  
 Suite 100  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Websites**  
**Yellowstone Region 108**  
[yellowstonescca.com](http://yellowstonescca.com)  
**Southwest Montana Region**  
[swmtsscca.com](http://swmtsscca.com)  
**Montana Region (Great Falls)**  
[mtsscca.com](http://mtsscca.com)  
**Eastern Idaho Sports Car Club**  
[eisccax.com](http://eisccax.com)  
**Big Sky Region (Missoula/Kalispell)**  
[bigskyregion.org](http://bigskyregion.org)  
**Absaroka Region Porsche Club**  
[vista.pca.org/abs/index.html](http://vista.pca.org/abs/index.html)