

# 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 Chris Brewer on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 5:57 p.m., in the GH&R Law Firm conference room.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: There was no membership meeting in March.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer J. Reuss reported the current checkbook balance, noted that all bills were current, and indicated that the Region was on solid financial ground for the 2013 season.

Old Business: It was reported that Doug Hills is moving to Texas, so Dean Johnson will be Chief of Timing. J. will retrieve the timing equipment and display from Doug and brief Dean on the timing system. Dean and Randy will assist Stewart Tucker with his transition to Chief of Tech.

New Business: A discussion was held about scouting possible event sites. Competition Chairman Randy Roberts reported that he was setting up a meeting with the new principal at Skyview High School to familiarize her with Region events at that site. Randy also noted that he had sent letters to all site owners to confirm scheduled event dates. Randy will personally contact each owner to verify. Chris agreed to check the status of the batteries in the timing trailer so that they were ready for the first event in May.

A motion was MS&P to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:37 p.m.

## Regional Officers:

### Regional Executive:

Chris Brewer  
region-exec@yellowstonescca.com

### Competition Chairman:

Randy Roberts  
comp-chair@yellowstonescca.com

### Secretary/Treasurer:

J. Reuss  
sec-treas@yellowstonescca.com

### Member-at-Large:

Dwight Gilliland  
member-at-large@yellowstonescca.com

## Member Profiles—by the Roving Regional Reporter

Al Merkel was born and raised in Great Falls, MT, where he graduated from high school in 1976. The first car Al owned was a 1963 Dodge Polara with a push-button shifter. Repairing the Dodge was the likely reason he enrolled in the Richard Petty auto mechanics correspondence course. Shortly after receiving his diploma, Al enrolled in the Sage Truck Driving School and spent the next 20+ years driving truck for a variety of employers. Al left his last trucking job with Sysco in 2011 to open his own

auto repair business known as "Al's 62nd Repair."

Al's first sports car was a Fiat 850 Spyder. He recalls owning a Triumph Spitfire after that. Al has owned many, many cars and trucks over the years. Al was quite active in dirt track racing when he lived in Riverton, WY, where he raced sprint cars, modifieds, street class, and "bombers" (similar to bump-and-runs).

Al's purchase of a 2006 BMW Z

-4 prompted him to begin autocrossing with the Yellowstone Region SCCA. He ultimately traded the BMW for his 2010 Camaro RS. Al also own a 1986 Nissan 300ZX (currently for sale) that he has also autocrossed. (Al holds the distinction of being the only participant of a Yellowstone Region event whose steering wheel has come off during a run!)

In addition to autocross, Al enjoys motorcycling, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and racing anything with wheels. J.



## What's Brewin'? — From the RE



It's that time of the year again—con-chasin' time! Hopefully everyone is excited and ready to go for our first event (Sunday, May 12. Similar to last year, we will be assigning course designer(s) in advance of events. If you are interested, send Randy Roberts or me an email and we will sign you up. Let me know if there is a particular event or site you would like to design.

A big thanks goes out to Tucker Stewart for agreeing to serve as Chief of Tech and for taking over management of the Region's

Facebook page! Thanks, Tucker! We could still use some help with registrations. If you attend most events, we could use your help in that area.

On an unrelated note, we have heard from our friends at Region 105 (Great Falls,)) that they might be able to get back on Malmstrom Air Force Base this season. The base requires something called an "access list" which seems like it takes some effort to get on. If you plan to attend, contact someone at Region 105 as soon as possible. C.B.



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



For those of you who are thinking about attending one of the driver's education events at Lewistown this year, take notice the Porsche club is requiring that tech inspections be conducted prior to arriving at the event. This means that if you arrive at the event without having proof of a technical inspection in hand, you won't be allowed to enter. Accordingly, make sure you have carefully read all the information on the Porsche website if you are considering attending a Lewistown event. There are

links on the Yellowstone Region Event Schedule to the Porsche website and to the tech inspection form. The form does not specify who must perform the tech inspection, but the driver must certify that the inspection was "performed ... by a person able to recognize the components being inspected and assess their condition." The form implies that the tech inspector must be someone other than the driver. The Porsche club has advised us that Dana Motors will do inspections for \$69.00. R.R.



## The Finish Line — From the Webmaster



There is very little to report on the Civic upgrade project this month. The Si transmission finally arrived and it was confirmed that it contained a limited-slip differential. The car is being delivered to Mini Motors this weekend and Dennis indicates that he plans to commence the swap process on Monday morning.

On an unrelated matter, included as part of the purchase price of the "Team Owner's" new Fiat Abarth is a one-day "performance

driving adventure" called the Abarth Track Experience. The program includes 4 driving modules with professional driving instruction in both autocross and road racing formats. We will be attending the event on August 8th at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL. The event is also held at tracks such as the California Speedway in Fontana, CA, Daytona International Speedway, Texas Motor Speedway, and Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Look for a full report (and photos) in the September issue of *Fast Times!*



### 2013 YRSCCA Solo Schedule

Date	Location
May 12th	Rimrock Auto
May 26th	Skyview H.S.
June 16th	Yellowstone Drag
June 30th	Skyview H.S.
July 14th	Food Services
July 21st	T.B.A.
August 4th	Rimrock Auto
August 25th	Food Services
Sept. 2nd	Skyview H.S.
September 21st	Yellowstone Drag

**Monthly Region Meeting**  
**May 7, 2013**  
**GH&R Law Firm**  
 175 N. 27th Street  
 Suite 903  
**6:00 p.m.**

### Websites

**Yellowstone Region 108 (Billings)**  
[yellowstonescca.com](http://yellowstonescca.com)  
**Southwest Montana Region (Bozeman)**  
[swmtscca.com](http://swmtscca.com)  
**Montana Region (Great Falls)**  
[mtscsa.com](http://mtscsa.com)  
**Eastern Idaho Sports Car Club**  
[eirscsa.com](http://eirscsa.com)  
**Big Sky Region (Missoula/Kalispell)**  
[bigskyregion.org](http://bigskyregion.org)  
**Absaroka Region Porsche Club**  
[abs.pca.org](http://abs.pca.org)