

Fast Times



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

Meeting Minutes—May Meeting

The monthly membership meeting of the Yellowstone Region SCCA was called to order by Regional Executive Chris Brewer on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 6:00 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 April 2012 meeting as published in the May issue of *Fast Times*.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer J. Reuss reported the current checkbook balance, noted that no bills were outstanding, and indicated that the only account activity was several regional dues deposits by SCCA. J. also reported that Scott Cranston had purchased two new batteries for the timing trailer and that everything was charged and ready to go for the first event of the season. J. indicated that all materials in the timing trailer had been cleaned up and all forms, releases, applications, etc., were current.

Old Business: The date of May 16th was set to hold a Solo Safety Steward training class. J. indicated he would email materials to all members who expressed interest in becoming SSSs. Chris decided that he and Randy Roberts would set the course at the upcoming Rimrock Auto event. J. was authorized to purchase a solar-powered trickle charger. Chris agreed to check the Rimrock site to see if it needed to be swept commercially.

New Business: J. indicated that he would take the timing trailer to Rimrock on Saturday afternoon. Randy would then take the trailer to his shop in the Heights to shorten the trip to the next event at Skyview. It will be decided where the trailer goes after Skyview. It was also decided that all insurance forms should be put in the timing trailer so they would be available at every event. Randy stated that some forms had not been issued/received yet. A motion was MS&P to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:30 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

Membership Chairman:

Vacant
 member-chair@yellowstonescca.com

Member-at-Large:

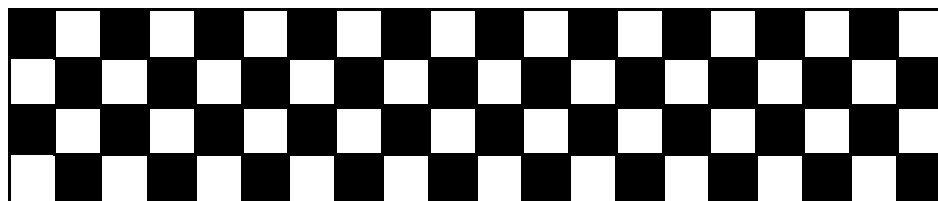
Dwight Gilliland
 member-at-large@yellowstonescca.com

Opening Day at RAG - by the Roving Regional Reporter

A bright sun greeted the 14 hearty entrants who participated in the Region's opening event for 2012 at Rimrock Auto Truck Center. A persistent wind kept the tires cool and areas of recently-patched asphalt kept the drivers on their toes. Doug Hills in his CRG Road Rebel bested the field by 6.557 seconds. The new black paint job and displacement increase to a full 125cc likely contributed to Doug's domination. Fast-time-of-day honor (for cars) went to Max Dangerfield in his 1991 Honda Civic Si.

Chris Brewer in his 2004 Mini Cooper S took the honor using PAX scoring. Dean Johnson "used his noodle" to place third overall in his Mazda MX-5. (Dean experimented with spring rates on his Mazda using pieces of swimming pool "noodles" as spring rubbers.) Steve Gruver kept the top up on his C4 Corvette to stay warm and edged James Reuss in his Civic ZC by .207 seconds. It was good to see Al Merkel back in his Nissan 300ZX. (Al apparently sorted out the problem with his steer-

ing wheel coming off.) Joel Gruver took the "cone crusher" award of the day, but still nosed out Jim Coons in his STI. Wesley Dews and his 2004 Subaru (pictured at right) did well for his (almost) first time out. Stewart Tucker made his Mazdaspeed 3 look like it was being driven by Dustin Park. Jesse Hardy brought his beautiful 2012 Mustang GT all the way from Gillette to participate in his first autocross event. Jesse made solid progress all day and looked like he was enjoying himself. First-timer Luke Atwell did the same in his 2003 Jetta.



What's Brewin'?' — From the RE



Four Solo Safety Steward (SSS) candidates attended a training session on May 16, 2012. After those individuals serve as trainees for two events, they will be eligible to become SSSs. It will be nice to have the "cushion" of additional SSSs. It is usually the first scheduled event of the year that is cancelled due to the weather. This year it was the second event. For newcomers, the Region's policy is that an event will be cancelled based on the 50-50 test—a forecast of less than a 50 degree high temperature and

a greater than 50% chance of rain. The Region needs approximately 14 entrants per event to break even, and history has shown us that the numbers are just not there for events held in inclement weather. On an unrelated note, the feedback on posting printouts of times immediately following run groups is overwhelmingly positive. The only glitch so far is managing the duct tape necessary to affix the results to the timing trailer. We may try using magnets on a metal dry-erase board. We'll see.



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



Two recent tidbits from my favorite magazine, *Grassroots Motorsports*, caught my eye and I thought I would pass them along. The first item was a comparison of an upsized wheel-and-time combination. Upgraded wheel-and-time options are common these days and the folks at GM set out to determine whether performance is helped or hindered. The test subject was a Mazda speed3 that rolls out of the factory on 18-inch alloys. The experiment compared the 18s with a set of 17s with the same width and

overall diameter. Did less sidewall mean less deflection and more contact patch? Yes, by nearly .50 seconds over a 39 second lap. The downside is that the larger wheels and tires will cost an additional \$250 all told. The second bit of "news" I noted was that electric tire warmers are now finding their way into track days. Tire warmers obviously work, but with most brands starting at \$1,550 for a set of four (plus the cost of a generator if an outlet is not nearby) I doubt we'll see any at local autocrosses anytime soon. R.R.



The Finish Line — From the Webmaster



Many of you will recognize that the symbol below is a "QR code." For those of you not familiar with QR codes, they are matrix barcodes (or two-dimensional code), readable by QR scanners, mobile phones with a camera and smartphones. QR stands for Quick Response. First designed for the auto industry, the system has become popular outside the industry due to its fast readability and large storage capacity compared to standard UPC barcodes. If you have



a smartphone with a QR app (most are free), scan the QR code below and see where it takes you! I was recently reminded by the team owner that my member profile is due up next. (She also offered to write the bio—which I declined.) I plan to get my member profile online shortly, but given the fact that the autocross season is underway, I am presuming that faithful readers of *Fast Times* would prefer event coverage over my life story.



2012 YRSCCA Solo Schedule	
Date	Location
May 6	Rimrock Auto
May 27	S.V.H.S. (cancelled)
June 3	Food Service
June 16-17	Yellowstone Drag
July 1	Skyview H.S.
July 15	Yellowstone Drag
August 12	Food Service
Sept. 2	Skyview H.S.
Sept. 23	Rimrock Auto

Monthly Region Meeting
June 5, 2012
GH&R Law Firm
 175 N. 27th Street
 Suite 903
6:00 p.m.

Websites
Yellowstone Region 108 (Billings)
yellowstonescca.com
Southwest Montana Region (Bozeman)
swmtscsa.com
Montana Region (Great Falls)
mtscsa.com
Eastern Idaho Sports Car Club
eirscca.com
Big Sky Region (Missoula/Kalispell)
bigskyregion.org
Absaroka Region Porsche Club
vista.pca.org/abs/index.html