

Fast Times



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

Meeting Minutes—No November Meeting



For those of you who were unable to attend, here's the view from the starting line at 2012 Top Gun.

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-](mailto:member-at-large@yellowstonescca.com)

large@yellowstonescca.com



Year-End Ramblings - by the Roving Regional Reporter

There were a couple of other items of interest at the Las Vegas Barrett-Jackson that did not fit in the previous edition of *Fast Times*. The first relates to the stylish car featured to the right. Growing up in the 50s and 60s, I'm familiar with lots of cars, but this one had me stumped. Those with more automobile acumen than I will recognize the car as a 1954 Kaiser Darrin Roadster. This particular example was 284 of 435 built in 1954. The car underwent a full restoration in 2010 and sold at auction for

\$112,200. Of particular interest are the pocket-style doors shown in the lower photo. (I don't think I have ever seen anything like that before.) Wikipedia informs me that Kaiser-Frazer Corporation was going through an unsuccessful transformation around the time this car was produced. Production of passenger cars ceased in 1955 and a new holding company was created to produce Willys Jeeps. The business was sold to American Motors Corporation (AMC) in 1970. There were two other

quirky cars at the auction. The first was the only remaining fully -armed (see photo on page 2) 1965 Chrysler Imperial used in the filming of the movie *The Green Hornet*. The car known as "Black Beauty" sold for \$55K. The other was an actual 1969 Pontiac GTO used in the 2004 movie *The Punisher*. (This example was one of five used with only two remaining.) Of particular interest was the bullet proof window shield that was signed by actor Tom Jane. The 400 HP GTO sold for \$11,000. That is what you call a bargain!



NATIONAL-WINNING A-MODIFIED CAR FOR SALE

Dwight Gilliland is selling the Avenger II. If you want to win hill climbs or autocrosses in style, this is the car for you! (Be nice to Dwight and he will cut you a sweet deal!)



What's Brewin'?' — From the RE

As I write this column over the Thanksgiving weekend, I am reminded of how thankful I am for all the Region members and participants who make SCCA events possible in Billings and the surrounding areas.

The 2012 season posted slightly less participation numbers, but membership enjoyed a significant bump and the financial position of the Region improved. This bodes well for next year. At the December membership meeting, in addition to electing officers for 2013, we will be nominating and voting

for the annual Region award winners. As you may recall, the Region recognizes the "Most Improved Driver" and the member that most exemplifies "The Spirit of the Sport."

If you wish to become more involved in the Region, becoming an officer is an excellent way to do that. If jumping into a position seem a little daunting, volunteer to share a position with an existing officer. You will be glad you did! I look forward to seeing you all next year!



C.B.



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

Top Gun never fails to bring out the best in Montana autocrossing and this year's event was no exception. At right are photos of former Region member and friend of the Region Jim Arnett's famous CP "Thunderchicken" Firebird. Jim had (what appeared to be) his grandson on board as "navigator" and both seemed to be having a great time! Closer to home, it will soon be time to begin work on the 2013 event schedule. Dean Johnson reports that a Helena event does not appear to be in the cards for

2013. The chief problems are lack of manpower coupled with the distances involved. We have not received final word as to whether Chief of Timing Doug Hills will be leaving Billings this spring for greener pastures, but Doug has done a great job getting Dean Johnson and Joel Gruver up to speed on "all things timing." However, if Dean moves to timing, we will need a new Tech Inspector. Tech inspection requires knowledge of the Solo Rules, but primarily involves common sense. Anyone interested?



R.R.



The Finish Line — From the Webmaster

One week after attending the 2012 Barrett Jackson auction in Las Vegas, I found myself back in Sin City. However, instead of hitting a jackpot at keno, I was picking up a new set of wheels for the "Team Owner." So far, she just loves the 2013 Fiat 500 Abarth. As you will note from the picture below, she loves putting the little 160HP hatchback "through its paces." I would be willing to bet that you will see the car at a Region event (or two) next season. The word from Brian Harmer at SCCA is that the Abarth is

classed in GS and also STC. However, non-Abarth models cannot run in stock classes. From postings on the Internet, it seems this vehicle does not comply with the Static Stability Factor guidelines of the Solo Rules. The problem stems from the (relatively) tall roofline and narrow track width. However, many of the commentators note that the Fiat 500 has an extremely low center of gravity which is a better gauge of a car's likelihood to roll over than is using a mathematical ratio.



J.



Monthly Region Meeting
December 4, 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)
swmtscca.com
Montana Region (Great Falls)
mtscca.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