

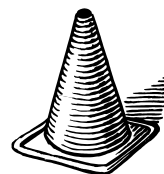
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Asst. Regional Executive
J. Reuss
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Competition Chairman
Chris Brewer
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Secretary/Treasurer
(Position Temporarily Vacant)

Membership Chairperson
Katie Cranston
member-chair@yellowstonescca.com



November 2008

Meeting Minutes: (There was no membership meeting in October.)

Election of Region Officers for 2009 Season

Slate of YRSCCA Officers for 2009

Regional Executive

- Scott Cranston

Assistant Regional Executive

- Chris Brewer

Competition Chairman

- Jerod Staebler

Secretary/Treasurer

- J. Reuss

Membership Chairperson

- Katie Cranston

Similar to last year, ballots by e-mail or regular mail are welcomed. Additional nominations and write-ins are extremely welcomed.

Observations from the 50th State — From the Webmaster

(The end of the solo season means many things to many people. However to the Webmaster/Newsletter Editor, it means not having event results and stories to fill space. Another reason to pray for spring.)

I always wondered why the former Secretary/Treasurer of the Region could afford to take so many trips to Elkhart Lake, WI, and other exotic racing venues. In fact, shortly after stepping into Mark's shoes by taking control of the Region checkbook, I found myself winging across the Pacific to Hawaii (with my charming and lovely wife of 31 years by my side). Who says this job doesn't offer great benefits?

Actually, the Region's funds are safe and sound. (With the assistance of Microsoft officials, I hacked into Scott Cranston's e-mail account and cashed in all his frequent flier miles! The in-box hadn't been opened since computers were powered by steam!)

Anyway, I thought I would pass on a

few stories about the trip that might be of interest.

Our first stop was in Honolulu. There are two things you must do the next time you visit: First, visit the Ferrari Store. They have a beautiful Formula 1 Ferrari on display right inside the front door. I have never seen a Formula 1 car up close before, and those things are cool. Don't hesitate posing for a picture in front of the car—everyone does that. (Don't try climbing in the car because they will get real mad at you and threaten to call the police. I don't know if they really do or not because I was a block or two away by that point.) The next thing you need to do is to rent a

Lotus Exige or Elise and buzz up and down Waikiki Beach. Those outfits are available for rent at a hotel about a block away from the Ferrari store. Just see the concierge.



The last thing you want to do in Hawaii is visit Maui Raceway Park. I have always envisioned this place as a palm tree and flower-filled Garden of (Autocross) Eden. It is not. However, after visiting the place, I can tell that Hawaiian solo participants are a tough lot. When I hear about Yellowstone Region members bellyaching about driving up to Acton, I think of Maui drivers taking the ferry to Oahu and back to autocross—and wish I could do that some day!
J.



Cranston's Corner — From the RE

A few statistics for the 2008 season:

Not including Lewistown, the Region hosted 8 events, up from 6 in 2007 and 6 in 2006. The average number of drivers per event was essentially the same in 2007 and 2008—20 drivers (which was down slightly from an average of 23 drivers per event in 2006). In 2008, the ratio of member drivers v. non-member drivers was almost exactly 50-50.

The Region's cash position improved significantly during 2008, with the bank balance increasing by over one-third.

As indicated in last month's newsletter, memberships were up by nearly 20% in 2008.

All told, we had a great year! SC

What's Brewin'? — From the Comp. Chair

The season would not be complete without mentioning the two big solo events for the fall—Top Gun in Helena and the SCCA Solo National Championships in Topeka, Kansas.

Top Gun took place on August 9th and 10th at the Emergency Services Facility adjacent to the Helena Airport. Reviewing the results on the Montana Region's website, it appears that approximately 90 cars participated in the two-day event.

The Region is proud to note that Billings regulars Mike Moore, Dave Marble and Randy Roberts took the trip north (west) and posted some respectable times. Mike Moore won the STX class with his Subaru WRX. Dave Marble finished 5th in a field of 11 cars in the SM class. Randy Roberts took first in class in FSP. Way to go, guys!

If you would like to get a taste of what driving at Top Dog is all about, log onto YouTube.com and search for "Top Dog SCCA 2008" (links will be posted on the Region's website). There are a number of excellent videos available to "put you in the driver's seat." Make sure that you choose the "watch in high quality setting" and choose the full screen mode. Don't forget to turn up the sound! One of my favorites is the video entitled "Helena Divisionals 2008." The sound is great!

At the National Championships, three Region members from Idaho Falls attended the 4-day event in September at Topeka, Kansas,

Cal Craner drove his 2008 D Stock Chevrolet Cobalt SS to a 14th place finish. Brian Coulson's 2004 B Stock Maxda RX8 finished 16th in class. Last, but not least, Karen Craner's 2004 Formula 125 finished second in her class and was the sole trophy winner for the Yellowstone Region.

Great job, Idaho Falls! Thanks for putting in an appearance for the Yellowstone Region at Nationals! (Perhaps you folks could venture north some weekend next summer and give us some pointers!)

I would like to thank all the members and non-members who participated in Region events during 2008. As Scott indicates above, the year was a success and the numbers (and smiles) proved it. I also appreciate everyone who help set up and tear down courses during the season. It sure is true that "many hands make light work."

Last, to all those new members or existing members who haven't had the opportunity to get more involved in Region events, don't be afraid to ask "can I do anything to help?" I guarantee you won't be sorry you asked. CB

The Finish Line — From the Webmaster

(With the Newsletter Editor enjoying her first semester at MSU in Bozeman, the Webmaster will temporarily assume the mantle of Newsletter Editor. Accordingly, if you notice a marked increase in grammar and spelling mistakes, the fault is mine.)

Those of you who frequent the Region's web page have noted that the archive of old newsletters is growing. Kristi Gilliland was kind enough to drop off a binder of old newsletters dating back to 1973! I don't know if anyone will take the time to look at the old issues—except for me while I am scanning same—but it's nice to know that the club will have its history all in one place. If you have any

old issues that haven't been uploaded to the website, let me know.

Last, I have heard comments from a few new drivers that the Region's officers and other long-time members seem somewhat standoffish at events and/or are otherwise not very friendly. Personally, I can assure you that such individuals would much rather be socializing and getting to know new drivers than running the event. However, running the event and making sure things are safe must take priority. There has been some talk about post-event get-togethers, so perhaps this problem will be resolved.

J.

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Monthly Region Meeting
December 3, 2008
GH&R Law Firm
 10 N. 27th Street, Suite 100
 6:30 p.m.

Websites
Yellowstone Region 108 www.yellowstonescca.com
Southwest Montana Region www.swmtscxa.org
Montana Region (Great Falls) www.mtscca.com
Eastern Idaho Sports Car Club www.eisccax.com
Big Sky Region (Missoula/Kalispell) www.bigskyregion.org
Northwest Hill Climb Association www.mbahillclimb.org/

For Sale—2005 GMC Sierra SLT Z71

If you want to tow your autocross car or just arrive in style, this is the outfit for you. Jerod Staeber is selling his fully-loaded 2005 GMC Sierra. The black crew cab has leather, sunroof, OnStar, Bose stereo, heated seats, etc. The truck also has nerf bars, a tonneau cover, spare wheels and tires, a spare billet grille, and full billets for the bumpers. The truck has fender flares and a high-rise hood painted to match. All original pieces are included. Only 29,000 miles. If you have seen this truck, you know it is a one-of-a-kind. If you know Jerod, you know this truck has been pampered from new. Call Jerod at 861-9411.

