

SportTalk

2021 Annual Yearbook for the New England Region, SCCA



MUD, TORNADOS
AND TROPHIES
AT RALLYX NATS

RETURN TO INDY

SOLO CLAIMS
5 NATIONAL
TITLES

KATHY HITS
50 YEARS

NER.ORG GETS A
FACELIFT

HAND-
CONTROLLED
DRIVING

2021 NEFV Championship

Champion

Gerard Owen Callaghan

2nd in Points

John Piscitelli

3rd in Points

Chris Barry

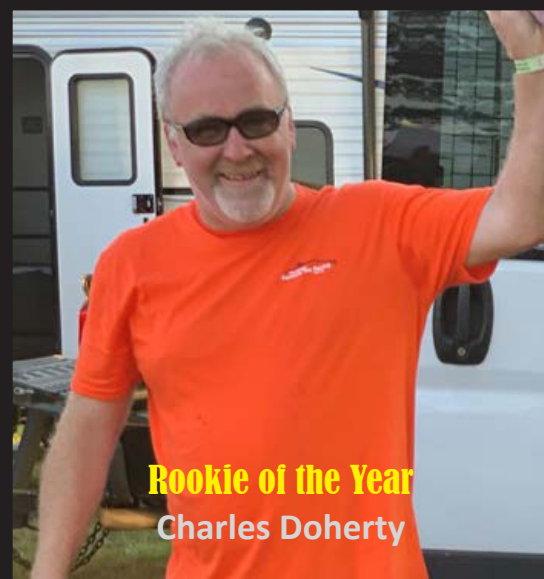


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Most Improved Driver
Afzal Bashir



Rookie of the Year
Charles Doherty



NEFV 2022 Schedule

May 14-15	NHMS	Bob Introne Memorial
June 24-25	Lime Rock	Paddock Crawl
Aug 6-7	NHMS	Paul Faford Veefest, RAL & OWDE
Aug 20	Thompson	Midnight Madness
Sep 10-11	Palmer	Pig Roast
Oct 14-15	Thompson	Championship Weekend



Sportsmanship Award
Chris Zarzicki

For Outstanding Lifelong
Dedication/Commitment to
the SCCA Formula Vee Racing
Community Nationwide

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Many of the images in this issue of Pit Talk are courtesy of the volunteers and professional photographers that donate their work for our use and enjoyment. We want to thank all of these amazing photographers and ask that the region continue to support their services when looking for photo images.

The Cover Photo is courtesy of **RST Racing**, with the start of the T4 race at the Indy Runoffs. The back cover photo is from **Shawn Pan**.

Please also thank **Perry Bennett, DaggerSLADE Media, Clarus Studios James and Rochelle Ray, and Rupert Berrington** for their contributions.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Regional Executive	04
NER.org Gets a Facelift	05
Region Awards	06
RAL & Directory	07
F&C Rookie of the Year	08
Member Anniversaries	10
Kathy Hits 50 Years	12
Pit Talk Digital Archives	13
NERRC Road Racing Champions	14
Elsa Floods Thompson Majors	17
Return to Indy	18
Solo's Back	20
Solo's Championship Run	22
Just Hands / TNiA & Time Trials	24
Mud, Tornados, Trophies	26
2022 Schedules	28
Road Rally Round-Up	30

FROM THE REGIONAL EXEC

Welcome to the 2021 Pit Talk Annual Yearbook!



2021 was another challenging year for our club with the continuing pandemic and the restrictions on gatherings and the focus on the health of our members. Nobody in leadership, or for that matter the club, had any real life experience in handling something like this. We were faced with mandates of gathering sizes, on locations and other challenges.

All of our programs, road race, solo, rally and time trials worked with the club leadership to be flexible and adapt to this new normal. I am happy to report that in spite of this our club was able to run a mostly full schedule of events across all of our programs.

In spite of these challenges, the club had a positive year in terms of finances. Not many regions in the SCCA can say the same. It is the hard work and flexibility of our program chiefs and specialty chiefs that made this possible. I won't name all of them, but I commend you all for a great year.

Because of a successful 2021, this year we will be

making investments in safety equipment, radios and several other areas.

A few other areas that I would like to touch on. We launched our redesigned website NER.org, and PitTalk.org continues to get more traffic. As our club communications transition to more electronic methods, please make sure that we have your correct email address on the SCCA member portal.

The last thing I would like to talk about is involvement and engagement. We are all volunteers here at the club. Nobody gets a paycheck. It takes this wonderful group of volunteers to make things work. I encourage each of you to get involved with the club. Whether it is attending a virtual meeting for each of our specialties or helping out at an event. If you don't like how something is run, get involved and change it.

Our club is fortunate to have a strong and diverse membership with a wide range of skills and strengths among them. We have a volunteer team that cares deeply about the club and is willing to invest their time, energy, and emotion for its benefit. Without all of them, and all of YOU, we could never be as successful as we have been weathering this past year. Let's have a great 2022 and thanks to all of you.

Photo by Shawn Pan



NER.ORG GETS A FACELIFT

After months of planning and work, the New England Region unveiled a new look to NER.org in September of 2021. After the successful launch of Pit Talk as a digital publication (Pittalk.org) four years ago, the region leadership believed that the NER site was due for an update and rebranding that would integrate seamlessly with the growing Pit Talk site.

As part of the process, it was decided NER.org would act as the marketing arm of the region – a way to reach new members with the basic information on what the club does and how to get involved, while Pit Talk would act as the engagement arm between the region and active members.

Bringing Everything Together

As part of this process, the region transferred the site hosting and control away from the SCCA National office and back under direct region control. The new site was designed and developed by Introne Communications, with the guidance and direction of James Ray, Jerry Papenhausen and Rich Currey as the BOD steering team. As Melissa Introne currently serves as the Editor for Pit Talk, having all of NER's websites managed by one point of contact, will insure consistency across the branding of both sites.

What's New

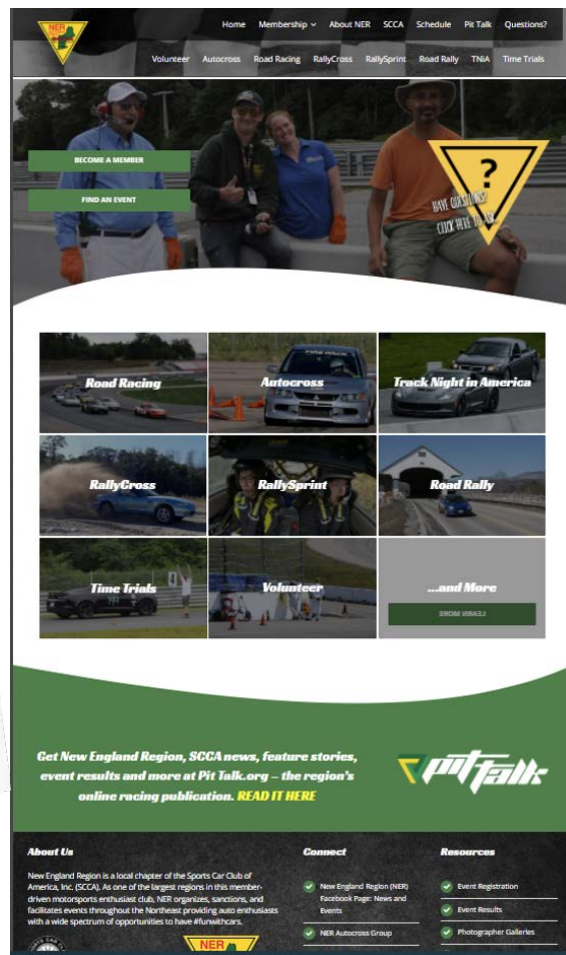
In addition to a more modern and contemporary look and feel to the site, there are a couple key new features members should notice:

Results: All results will now reside on Pit Talk. Links to results pages will be available from NER.org, but the home for all results will be at Pit Talk.

Mobile Friendly: The new site is mobile friendly! With more than 50% of visitors to both sites coming from smartphones or tablets, the new NER.org is intentionally designed with a unique mobile interface.

Updated Calendar: All events will be available on the new Schedule page, with an interface that allows visitors to filter searches by program type. Additionally, links to MSR for registration, Supps, or Event Info documents will all be linked off of each specific event. Events can also be exported and downloaded directly from the site to personal calendars.

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to check it out!



REGION AWARDS

The 2022 NER Annual Meeting was held both virtually and in-person this year, allowing members to participate and attend at their personal comfort level as conditions surrounding Covid-19 continue. In addition to recognizing those drivers that earned season championships, the region also presented its annual awards to recognize members that went above-and-beyond. Here are the standouts for 2021.



Scott Carlson

RE Award

Scott has been a dedicated supporter and competitor in the NER Rally program, serving for many years as the program chief. He has devoted countless hours of time and effort in support of and bringing growth to the program, finding new sites for us to run, and organizing a thriving Rally program.



Trevor Hermance

Assistant RE Award

The Assistant Regional Executive award recognizes someone whose work behind the scenes helps support the region. From working as a volunteer at many pro events, to working directly with some of our key tracks in the region, Trevor is pretty well traveled. He also spearheads our social media programs, taking responsibility for maintaining the region's virtual presence.



Sterling Cole

Gold Pass Recipient

For the better part of a decade, Sterling was our region's NER.org webmaster, volunteering significant time outside of events to help make sure we had a presence on the web where we could be easily found and researched by those seeking to learn more about us, and where our members could find a place to gather and find results quickly. In that time, he has also served on the NER Board of Directors, and as our Regional Executive, and as a GT3 club racing competitor.



Jojo Corrales-Kean

Gold Pass Recipient

An amazing cheerleader and organizer for the NER Solo community, Jojo leads the presence on our social media platforms. Every year, she organizes and prints a region t-shirt for Solo Nationals, which clearly signals our community atmosphere and presence at the event, and organizes the paddock spacing to facilitate members getting together as comfortably as possible. Jojo is known for bringing a solidly themed team to our Team Challenge Event showing her spirit for our club and activities. She and her husband Todd are busy training the next generation of New England Region autocrossers as well.



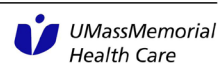
Jennifer Ferreira

MA & PA Philbrick Award

Jen has worn many hats throughout the season, offering her assistance to a number of specialties, including Grid, Pit, Medical, and Start, and is also training to be a steward. And this is all while also being a driver. To quote Grid chief Karen Petersen, Jen would "finish a race, change into whites, and jump into a specialty". Our outdoor, up-close-and-personal specialties have had trouble getting people lately, but whenever anyone was short-handed, Jen offered to help without hesitation.

2021: RAL \$14K

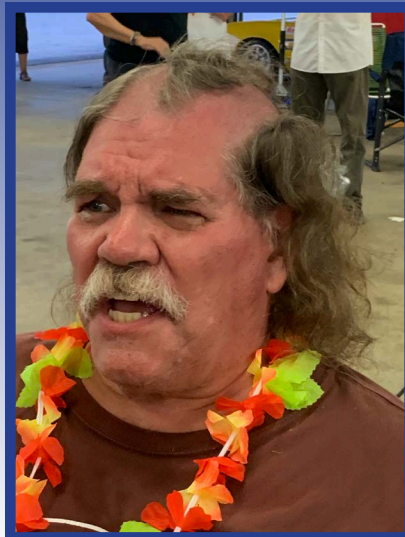
UMASS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



What's quickly becoming a RAL tradition is auctioning off the locks of veteran drivers at the annual Racing Against Leukemia event each year. This year, **Dave Patten** was put up for bids, even sacrificing both his eyebrows AND his mustache in the name of charity.

When the final totals came in from all RAL events - including the Solo fundraiser, and the Road Rally GTA, NER's check to the UMass Memorial Medical Center was \$13,831.52.

2017: \$10,017 | 2018: \$9,000 | 2019: \$15,000
2020: \$8,163 | 2021: \$13,831.52



DIRECTORY

Club Leadership - Who to Contact

2022 NER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regional Executive - Abhi Ghatak - regionalexec@ner.org

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Secretary - George Farrar - gigfarrar@gmail.com

Director - Jeff Adams - jeffa711@hotmail.com

Director - Jennifer Ferreira - jennferr00@gmail.com

Director - Mark Gregory - rosmarllc@yahoo.com

Director - Steve Introne - sintrone@yahoo.com

Director - Paul Omichinski - pomichinski@icloud.com

Director - Greg Holt - rej815@msn.com



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RallyCross - Emmanuel Cecchet - cecchet@gmail.com

Road Rally - Jon Lamkins - jon.lamkins@cox.net

Social Media - Trevor Hermance - magicaltrevor2@gmail.com

Volunteers - Eileen McStay - nerflagchief@gmail.com

Time Trials - Paul Omichinski - pomichinski@icloud.com

CRE - Peter Morrison - morrisonpeter47@gmail.com

F&C ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Who will pick up the mantel?

Written By: Dan Hoffman

The NER F&C community is going through a long dry spell in awarding the honor. It's been 10 years! The last recipient was Doug Myers in 2012.

The honor of being chosen as F&C Rookie of the Year has a long history. The first flagger on record is **Paul Randazzo** in 1971. In the June 1971 issue of Pit Talk, page 4, it states that "At the flaggers meeting held at the Roundy house in May 1971, ...Al Einhorn reminded the group of the Al Einhorn Rookie of the Year Award, an incentive award instituted at the behest of the 1969 Flag Board by Al Einhorn and administrated by him and his secret staff. It's the best recognition we can give an outstanding rookie flagger." We know the award was originally called the Al Einhorn Rookie of the Year Award. But as the years go by, there was less and less information about the award recorded from the Annual Meeting. **Larry Dignan**, 1974 honoree, was the first person recorded on the "other" record. What is this "other" record you might ask? On boxer shorts in the former Flag Chief card box – of course! Let me explain.

Since the award's inception, the Flag Chief was responsible for recognizing the most outstanding newbie flagger. To be qualified, the newbie would have to prove to be a quick learner. The candidate would demonstrate a good working knowledge of the flags: Their meaning, when to display them, how to display them, and when to draw them back in. He or she would need to know at least the basic hand signals

used to communicate with other flaggers, and be comfortable communicating, via the "phones", with the Operating Steward in Control. Responding to on-track incidents was also part of the evaluation. The first-year understudy would have to know when to respond, how to respond safely, and understand how to use a fire extinguisher. If there were several outstanding newbies, the tie would be broken by considering which one of them demonstrated club team spirit. Senior flaggers and the Flag Chief debated each newbie, then voted.

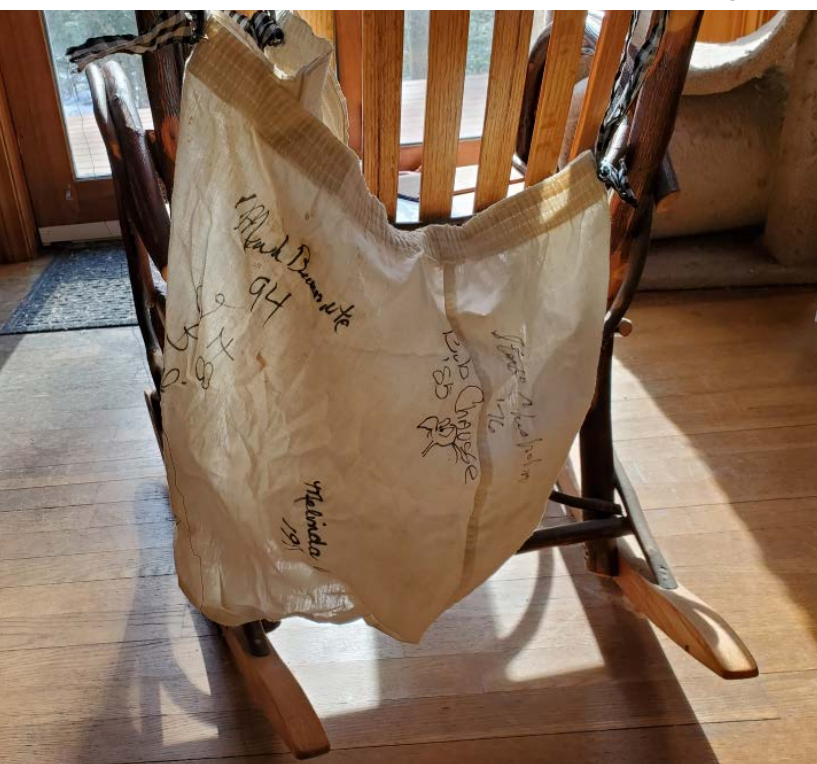
Now, back to the boxer shorts record. The chosen Rookie of the Year would be announced at the party held on the evening of the first day of the last race weekend of the year. The tradition was that the recipient would sign their name on the boxer shorts and date it. They would then wear the boxer shorts over their whites for the remainder of the party and all the next day. It was not only great fun, but also provided a year-to-year record of the Rookie of the Year! There are actually 2 pair of boxer shorts. When one was full of signatures, a second pair was added.

In 2005, then Flag Co-Chiefs, **Mack McCormack** and **Fred Mahler**, decided to formalize the award with a trophy. With the advent of electronic files, there was no longer a need for the wooden box used to hold the 3x5 cards with all the flagger personal information. They decided that the wooden box with the historic "Bob Roth, WE MISS YOU-AND WE CARE!" sticker on it would make an excellent trophy. The sticker was orange and showed Bob in his number 6 Spec Racer Ford. A brass plaque with the recipient's name was added to the box. The box was held by the honoree for one year. It was then returned so it could be fitted with a new brass plaque and awarded to the next Rookie of the year. Archived inside the box were the two pairs of boxer shorts.

Members with a long history in the New England Region will probably recognize that many names on the list went on to become Flag Chiefs and club leaders.

There was one other qualification the newbie would have to have: He or she would have to have worked at least 75 percent of the region's events. Thus, the reason why there are gaps in the years and it being 10 years since the honor has been awarded.

So, the question remains. Who will be the next Flagging and Communication Rookie of the Year?



F&C ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

1971 Paul Randazzo
1972 Dick Sheehan
1974 Larry Dignan
1976 Steve Chisholm
1978 Matt Rodman
1979 Dave Rodman
1982 Kevin Leach
1985 Bob Chausse
1987 Dave Hottle
1989 Wild Bill Hirschaut
1991 Andy "Bob" McGinnis
1992 Douglas White
1993 Mark Biamonte
1994 Mark Biamonte
1995 Sandy Taber
1996 Debbie Mann
1997 Mike Long
1998 Mark Ragsdale
1999 Melinda Coyle
2000 Douglas Frank
2003 Mark Sobol
2004 Scott Butler
2005 Dan Hoffman
2006 John Bigins
2007 Jessie Schindewolf
2008 Benjamin Wells
2009 Bob Desouza
2010 Renee Gompper
2012 Doug Myers



Photos by James Ray



SCCA

Sports Car Club of America®

50

Kathy Barnes
Peter Becker
William Currie
Linda Fanning
Roger French

Thomas Galuardi
Stephen Lewis
Joseph Marcinski
Timothy Marschner
William Sinkler

25

Scott Beliveau
Paul Capel
Bud Collins
Domenic Crugnale
Hal Denham
Raymond Dona
Marilyn Freeman
Jack Knapp

10

John Alessandro
Daryl Beck
Raymond Blethen V
Frank Brewer
Andrew Burke
Amber Burns
Thomas Capizzi Jr
Jason Carroll
Anthony Cesaro
Sterling Cole
Allison Cole

Pamela Davis
Richard Joseph Dizinno
Bridget Duffy
Colin Duffy
Erin Duffy
Hayden Duffy
Morgan Duffy
Stacie Ferreira
David Paul Flynn
Nick Fonte
Jonathan Goring

David Grimes
Beth Heinrich
Kevin Hewlett
David Lapointe
Sitota Levine
Mark McMullen
Sandi Mickle
Paul Mirkhani
Brian Mongillo
Samuel Mushnick
Douglas Myers

5

Theodore Alexander
Peg Atkisson
Grant Barron
Afzal Bashir
Robert Bean
Griffin Bjerke
Paul Anthony Bonomo
Robert Bradley
Douglas Brown
Alex Brown
Lee Cappola
Andrew Robert Casella
Robert Casella
Michael Choe
Rachel Donnelly
Ryan Duke
George Farrar Jr.

Todd Fisette
Justin Flynn
Stuart Forer
Michael Lewis Gallant
Paul Robert Gosselin
Paul Grimard
Eric Harkrader
Kathy Heckert
Carl Helmetag
Donald Stephen Hewett
Wayne Higgins
Paul Hume
Patricia Hurter
Paul Christopher Kierce
Christopher Kierce
John Kierce
Roberta Kierce

Thomas Kierce
Andrew Stephen Knott
Raymond Kobs
John Koch
Oliver Lucier
Amriel Lucier
Craig Lunsman
Walter Lunsman
Stephen Luszc
Mark Lydell
Daneil McCarthy
James McGuire II
Lazz McKenzie
Harvey Meeker
Jenny Meeker
Jordan Melim
Vaughn Micciche

Mark Michalski
Joseph Morando
Marianne Morando
Victor Morando
Melissa Nagel
Robert Paul Nogiec
Bob Ochial
Chris Ogilvy
Joseph Osborne
Stephen Pastore
Tanner Picklus
Mark Ponusky Jr.
Garry Richetelli
Luis Rivera Jr.
David Rodman
Kevin Separy
Scott Peter Simpson

2021 ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating Years of SCCA Membership

New England Region is honored to celebrate these anniversary milestones for SCCA membership. The longevity and dedication to the club through these years of commitment is part of what makes SCCA special. Congratulations members!

Brian LaCroix
Derek Lugar
David Mailhot
Jan Riley
Anthony Ruddy
Patrick Salerno
Louise Valliere
Dana Wiehl

Jack Nguyen
Ken Pallant
Brenton Piekarski
Thomas Soja
Jeremiah Tanner
Luis Teixeira
Peter A.J. Tonelli
Brent Vander Werf
Megan Washay
Raymond George Zisa

Robert Lewis Smith
Bob Smolinski
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Scott Sylvester
Patricia Tollefsen
Cooper Washay
Joel Eugene White
Mitchell White
William Joseph Younie Jr.

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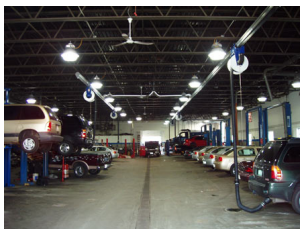
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KATHY HITS 50 YEARS

Her Half-Century Impacting SCCA MotorSports

50 years at anything is an accomplishment. It requires not only a dedication, but a passion that stands the test of time to maintain an active involvement for a half-century.

This year, Kathy Barnes marks her 50th Anniversary as an SCCA member. Joining on April 1, 1962, there's few within our region, let alone the club nationally as a whole, that have never heard of her.

In 2014, Kathy was inducted into the SCCA Hall of Fame, in the same class as Bob Bondurant and Dan Gurney. But instead of retiring to the sidelines, she opted to pick up a new mantel and set to work bringing her love of motorsports to a new group of auto enthusiasts. "In my opinion, Kathy Barnes may be the only person deserving of induction into the SCCA Hall of Fame-twice," said Heyward Wagner, Senior Director of Rally/Solo and Experiential Programs for SCCA. "The first was well earned for being a gatekeeper within SCCA-

ensuring rules were followed, safety was a priority and that processes were in place. Should there be a second it will certainly be for using her knowledge of rules, safety and processes to open our gates, bringing a new generation and culture to SCCA through programs like Track Night and Time Trials."

Kathy was a long-time Solo leader - chairing the Solo Events Board, Solo Nationals, and the Solo Safety Committee. She went on to win 5 Solo National Championships. Here in New England, she led Solo events for the NE Division, served as our Regional Executive, Area 1 Director, and is commonly seen as both a Chief, Operating and Safety steward at club racing events.

In 2001, Kathy won the Solo Cup, the program's highest award, and in 2004 the Wolff Barnato award, the entire club's highest honor. This put her on par with the likes of Carl Haas and Bob Sharp.



Today, as Heyward explained, Kathy spearheads the TNiA and Time Trials programs. Starting in 2015, she began coaching drivers at Track Night programs (something she still does today), and was “Jack Track” the customer service manager for TNiA, answering all the questions that came in as this new program kicked off.

In 2018, she was the founding member of the Time Trials board. And in July of 2020, Kathy was intimately involved in coordinating the 75th anniversary of SCCA's first ever event - a Time Trial that was held at Thompson Speedway. 88 drivers returned to TSMP to celebrate the anniversary, and it just so happened to be the first event NER hosted after the Covid lockdowns.

While Kathy is a tough competitor, and a stickler for safety, these days, you usually cannot find Kathy without an adorable puppy in tow. Her work with Canine Companions has her training dogs for use as service animals. Constantly at her side, these dogs get much of their training at tracks throughout the northeast.

Kathy's influence and presence is one that cannot be measured. As a region, as a club, we are grateful for her decades of dedication, and hope we have many more of them to come.



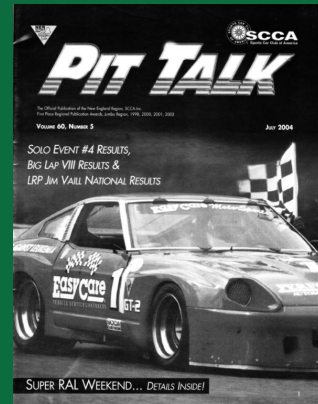
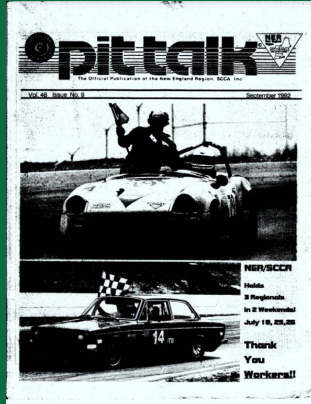
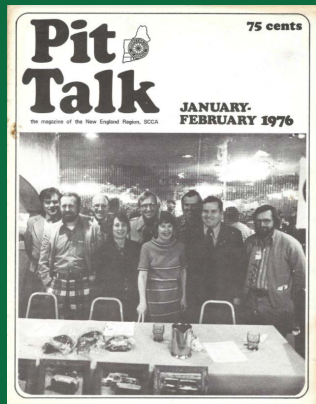
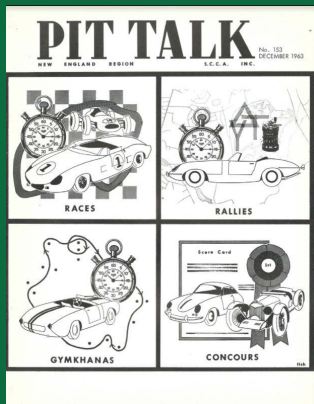
Photo by Clarus Studios

PIT TALK ARCHIVES

Digital Copies of Every Pit Talk for Over 60 Years

As part of the NER Archives work Donna Stevens has spear-headed the last few years, creating digital copies of all the Pit Talk issues since its debut in 1959 has been one of the major projects. Working together with Denise Patten, the two have scanned hundreds of copies of Pit Talk. Those digital versions are now archived and available on PitTalk.org. NER members, in fact anyone looking to reminisce on the history of motorsports in the region, now has full access to these historical records.

Simply log on to Pittalk.org/pit-talk-archives to browse through the decades. The archives are sorted by year, and labeled by the published date under each year, to make searching simplified.



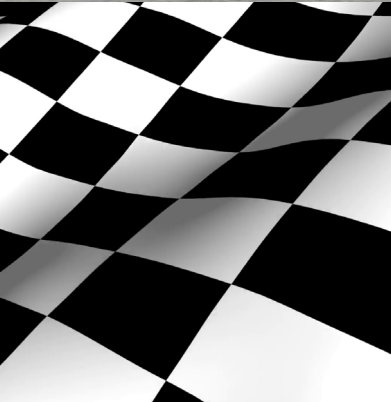
ROAD RACING CHAMPIONS

The road racers were back for a full season of wheel-to-wheel competition in this year's New England Road Racing Championship. All eight events were held at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Palmer Motorsports Park, Thompson Speedway, and Lime Rock. The region hosted the second annual Night Race under the lights at Thompson in August, proving that we can race after dark. In addition, four Competition Race Events (CRE) were held exposing 22 drivers to road racing and resulting in several earning their competition license.

Jay Creel - HP



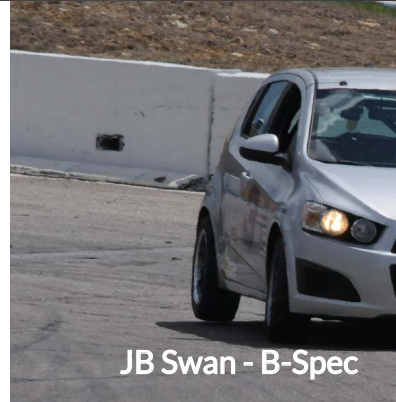
Zack Kelly - T1



Hiroshi Hatano - EP & ITA



JB Swan - B-Spec



Anthony Piselli - ITS



Jason Conzo - SRF3



Keaton Van Thof - FX



Erik Haakonsen - ITR



AS
George Farrar

B-SPEC
JB Swan

EP
Hiroshi Hatano

FC
Tony Rolfe

FV
Gerard Owen
Callaghan

FX
Keaton Van Thof

GT1
Joe Zanavich

GT2
Aubrey Bout

GTX
Maurizio Cerasoli

HP
Jay Creel

IT7
Daniel Sheppard

ITA
Hiroshi Hatano

ITR
Erik Haakonsen

ITS
Anthony Piselli

SM
Evan Karl

SM2
Christian Sarnecki

SRF
Mark Saviet

SRF3
Evan Slater

SRFX
Jason Conzo

SSM
John Santos

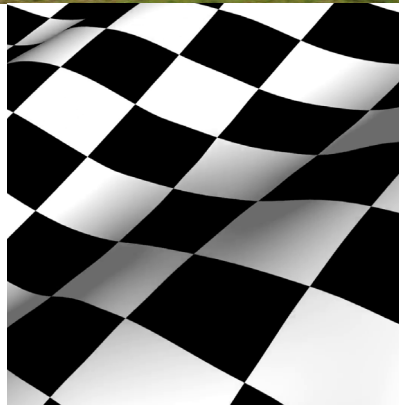
STL
Rob Sturgis

T1
Zack Kelly

T3
Michal Kuna

T4
Kenneth Payson

Photos by James Ray



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ELSA FLOODS MAJORS

As Hurricane Elsa ended its run up the east coast in mid-July, vast areas of the northeast were under flood watches. Heavy amounts of rain were leaving a trail of damage from New Jersey northbound.

But that didn't stop racers from showing up for the Majors event at Thompson, since many needed this weekend to provide the final points and starts for Runoffs qualifications. Setting up and unloading in the rain is nothing new. Everyone has faced rain conditions at some point. But conditions were quickly morphing into the unusual.

Saturday Wash Out

Hoping for the best, race officials started Saturday morning with the full intention to run the planned schedule. Group 1 headed out as the first cars on course to find puddles and rivers running across many portions of the track. Turn 3 had inches of standing water and the front straight had at one point 7 various running streams.

As Group 2 made their way on track, things turned. With three wild spins and incidents, the stewards reluctantly concluded track conditions were not safe for racing and called a pause. The rain was not only constant, but getting heavier. Flaggers were called in from the stations and racing was halted with the hopes to resume at lunch.

As the 12:00 restart time approached, so did the downpours. Stewards continued to check the track, and the standing water continued to increase. Qualifying sessions were officially cancelled and the new proposed schedule was to have a single race per group in the afternoon. Some radar reports showed the clouds clearing around 1:00, so a 2:00pm tentative restart was the new goal.

And 2:00pm came and went, and there was still rain. At this point, the front straight looked like a river. No longer were there individual streams, but everything had coalesced into one giant flow of running water.

Can You Remember This Happening Before?

Unfortunately, as the 2:00pm mark inched closer, it became clear that even if/when the rain stopped, the track would not be safe for a while. The standing water in sections was too great. Kathy Barnes had more laps around the track than anyone on Saturday as she did

constant course checks to see if water was draining and clearing. Not so much. Part of the issue was the retention pond across the street from the track. This was overflowing and much of the spillage was travelling under the bridge and into the track areas.

So the day was officially cancelled. As word went out, the questions began – has anyone ever been at an SCCA event that was cancelled for rain? Talking to many of the long-time members, no one could recall a situation like this ever before. SCCA races in the rain! We've raced in the snow. We've raced in the extreme heat. We've had delays for lightening and thunderstorms, but then got back out there and finished the day. This was definitely a first for many of us.

Friday Cancelled, What's the Plan for Saturday

With Friday officially cancelled, the plan for Saturday needed to be decided. The decision was made to scrap all qualifying. The Saturday schedule would give each group 2 races. A 15-minute race in the morning and a 30-minute race in the afternoon.

Heading into the late afternoon, the skies finally cleared and the rain stopped. The track was a mess, water everywhere, but drivers, crew and workers could at least enjoy being out and about and not huddled trying to stay dry.

With Elsa not wanting to be totally forgotten, she came back for one final downpour during the wee hours overnight, but not enough to change any plans. As racing kicked off on Saturday, drivers were left with two continuously wet areas to deal with throughout most of the day – between Turns 3 and 4 and between Turns 4 and 5.

Even with these less than ideal track conditions, 4 drivers set new track records. Mighty impressive and leaves one wondering how fast those racers would be if the track had been completely dry?

RETURN TO INDY

The 58th Runoffs returned to historic Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 2021. The first time, in 2017, more than 1000 cars hauled to Indy for a chance to race on the iconic track. This year, the numbers were equally impressive, with almost 900 entries for the week long event.

NER sent 36 drivers. As in 2017, both the Spec Miata and Spec Racer Ford 3 classes were oversubscribed, requiring Last Chance Races. But the surprise turn around, making it one of the most talked about classes all week, was B-Spec. It went from the class deemed on the verge of dying off just a few years ago, to sporting the third biggest group with 61 drivers. That made it the *largest B-Spec race in history*. At the checkered flag, NER's **Steve Introne** crossed in 3rd place.

A Week of Racing

All qualifying finished under dry (although warmer than expected) conditions for October. When racing began on Friday, more reasonable and comfortable weather in the high 70's and low 80's returned as T4 kicked off the first race. However, by Saturday, the morning races were overcast and everyone began watching the radar.

Rain was inbound, and the potential for storms with lightning that could stop racing were a concern.

The skies opened up late morning, causing the majority of Saturday's races to be on an at least wet track, if not in an actual downpour. The rain continued through Sunday. When the week came to a close, and everyone gathered for the final toast, the clouds parted and a giant rainbow appeared over the track.

All the Parties

Part of what makes the Runoffs fun is the parties! Monday night's kick-off party included music by The Indigos at the Pagoda Pavilion. Then on Wednesday, SCCA took a page out of the NER handbook and organized their own version of our Paddock Crawl. Regions and race teams throughout the paddock hosted food and beverages, and all the week's participants – workers, drivers, families and crew – were able to walk through, enjoy the eats and drinks, and mingle with everyone throughout the night. NER's party was led by **Greg Amy** and **JB Swan**.

Racing Highlights

While the parties and qualifying kept everyone busy, the real action was the races. Unfortunately, one of the biggest take-aways from the 26 races was the high number of Full Course Yellows. Racing was paused continuously as incidents on track required safety vehicles to enter the course. T4, the first race of the weekend, saw only 3 green flag laps for the entire race, and collected **Stephen Blethen** in a horrific Turn 1 accident.

Multiple races ended behind the pace car as the FCY conditions prevented a race to the checker. In an ironic twist, the Spec Miata group – known for their rough and tumble racing – actually put on one of the cleanest races of the week, remarkable given they had 72 vehicles all out there battling wheel-to-wheel.

Despite all of that, NER had a couple stand-out performances and highlights from the week. We brought home one Tire Rack Pole Winner, a 3rd place podium, and six Top 10 finishes.



Steve Introne took the podium at the Indy Runoffs ten days before his father, Bob, passed away unexpectedly. Bob was in the tower at Thompson as an operating steward for the NERRC Championship weekend as he heard the finish. Cheers and congrats went out across the flagger net at TSMP, as Steve is also a long-time NER F&C worker.

Podium Finishers

Steve Introne – 3rd place – B-Spec

Top 10 Finishes

AS: Thomas West – 10th

FC: Alex Tollefsen – 10th

SM: Elivan Goulart – 9th

T1: Hugh Stewart – 8th

T2: Brian LaCroix – 8th

T2: Michael Lavigne – 9th



Stand Out Performances

B-Spec: Steve Introne takes 3rd Place

The lone podium finisher from NER this year was Steve Introne in his #12 Mini Cooper B-Spec. As a region, we've followed Steve and JB Swan as they built B-Spec cars from scratch with the goal to race them at Indy. Both drivers completed that goal, with Steve claiming P2 on the grid for the race, setting the track record for B-Spec at Indy Motor Speedway, and finishing in 3rd overall to claim his first Runoffs podium finish ever.

T4: Stephen Blethen Gets the Pole

Taking the lone Tire Rack Pole Position award at the Runoffs for NER was Stephen Blethen in his T4 Mazda RX8. His twin brother, Raymond, wasn't far behind, earning a 5th place starting position. From his first qualifying session where Stephen sat 11th, 2 days later he found the speed and grabbed the P1 spot. Unfortunately, the first race was marred by serious incidents, knocking Raymond to the back and taking Stephen out completely. A disappointing end to a great week and run.

From TNiA to the Runoffs

It was just 6 years ago, in 2015, that Allen Briere showed up at a TNiA event at Thompson Speedway. Two years later, he got his first competition license. And now, just 4 short years later – Allen is at the Runoffs competing in his VW GTI. He qualified 20th and finished 16th. An amazing testament to how drivers can progress from track nights, to wheel-to-wheel racing, and even find themselves at the biggest club racing event of the year in such a short time.



Allen Briere's T3



Solo was back in 2021 with a full schedule of events. 13 dates on the calendar held at Deven's Airfield, with eight of them counting towards championship season points.

Unlike 2020 where there were no points events or champions crowned, the AutoX team only cancelled one event in 2021 – and it had nothing to do with Covid. Hurricane Elsa (see the article on what it did to the Thompson Majors) and its extreme weather flooded tracks, roads, neighborhoods and basically the entire northeast. The airfield in Massachusetts wasn't immune.

Hurricanes aside, the Solo drivers returned strong, ending the year with 12 season champions in the Street Category and 6 in the Prepared/Modified classes. Additionally, 5 NER drivers went on to Lincoln to claim National Championships, with two earning the distinguished Triad award. The caliber, competitiveness and quality of NER's Solo program continues with the results speaking for themselves.

Street Categories

AS
Mark Ponusky

DS
Jeff Bakken

ES
Gavin Williams

FS
Dana Nicgorski

GS
Chang Ho Kim

HS
Josh Brockman

STH
Brad Fiore

STS
Sam Creasey

STX
David Bocchichio

STR
Justin Chen

STU
Oliver Lucier

Prepared & Modified Categories

SSP
Shaun Moore

CAMC
Kyle Buckley

XP
Thomas Moore

SM
Matthew Mickel

XSA
Read Fleming

PRO
Todd Kean

*Todd Kean - back-to-back
Stirling Moss Champion,
2019 and 2021*





Photos by Shawn Pan

2021 TRIAD WINNERS

Created in 2009 to recognize driver excellence through the course of a competition season, the Solo Triad is one of the most difficult awards to earn in SCCA competition. Although the criteria have varied a bit over the years, a Solo Triad Award is earned through a triad of accomplishments.

If it sounds hard, that's because it is. Winning a Solo Triad requires commitment and excellence throughout the entire season. A single "off" day often makes all of the difference. Yet, 19 very skilled drivers pulled it off in 2021, and two of those accomplished competitors are from the New England Region.

Grant Reeve
Super Street R

- 1st –**
A driver must be victorious at the Tire Rack Solo Nationals.
- 2nd –**
They had to win a Tire Rack Championship Tour event in the same class, where at least three other drivers were competing.
- 3rd –**
They had to claim a win at either a second Championship Tour with at least three drivers competing, or a Tire Rack ProSolo, in the same class (or an equivalent class at a ProSolo), with at least five drivers competing.

Billy Davis
Street Touring Roadster

CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

NER Claims 5 National Titles at 2021 Solo Nats

There was no Solo Nats in 2020. So it's not surprising that 1130 competitors in total, representing 45 of the 50 states, eagerly gathered at Lincoln AirPark for the 2021 Solo championship event. 39 of those drivers came from New England, once again making us one of the largest regions represented.

When all was said and done, NER put on fantastic performances, bringing home FIVE (5) 2021 National Championship titles, with an additional 9 earning trophy placements for the week. But to top it off, our drivers topped the PAX lists, proving just how strong our solo drivers are on a national level.

NER autocrossers have seen it all when it comes to weather. From blazing hot days to torrential downpours. Luckily, the weather gods shined on Nebraska and the week had gloriously beautiful and sunny days. Not a run was done in the wet and rain. Friday was arguably the "worst" with some higher than normal temperatures, but overall, competitors couldn't ask for better event conditions.

For the NER drivers in particular, there were a couple standout moments for the week. The region party is also a highlight for everyone, and 2021 once again

didn't disappoint. It's always a good time and plenty of laughs, good food and beverages were shared amongst the team.

A big shout out should go to **Jojo Corrales-Kean** for coordinating and designing the team shirts for this year! NER always stands out at these events with their team gear and Jojo knocked it out again this year.

Individually, **Ginette Jordan** solidified her standing as one of the best of the best. After the transmission in her car broke, she had to jump in a loaner car. Driving someone else's vehicle, Ginette claimed her 14th National Championship trophy. Amazing.

The "Panda" also caused its share of memorable activities. **PJ Corrales** was caught welding the Street Mod in between runs. The first time, he used only ~90 seconds of his mechanical, and the second time, he welded the car (again) and didn't even need to ask for a mechanical. Talk about getting it done!

And lastly, the caliber of our Autocrossers is easily evidenced by simply looking at the PAX leader board. When all the final times were indexed, NER drivers stood tall in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 12th.

Photos by Perry Bennett



TIRE RACK
SCCA.com
Solo Nationals '21

TOP CONE
★ "BEST OF THE BEST" ★

Trophy Finishes

AS – 11th Place – Mark Ponusky

BS – 4th place – Mark Daddio

STR – 6th Place – Mark Dudek

STR – 10th Place – William Koscielny

STH – 3rd Place – Brad Fiore

DSP – 3rd Place – Tamra Krystinik

DSP – 4th Place – Andrew Krystinik

SM – 3rd Place – PJ Corrales

SML – 2nd Place – Jojo Corrales-Kean

PAX Leader Board

3rd Place: Todd Kean

4th Place: Billy Davis

5th Place: Grant Reeve

12th Place: PJ Corrales



Kimsoo Gopnik, one of the young, up-and-coming NER Solo drivers, with Bill Goodale, NER and National Solo legend

2021 Solo National Champions

**Ginette Jordan -
FSPL**



Becca Nell - STUL



Billy Davis - STR



Todd Kean - SM



Grant Reeve - SSR



JUST HANDS

Wheelchair Bound Drivers Take to the Track

When spotting the bright orange 2013 BMW M3 racing around Lime Rock Park at the next Track Night in America event, take a moment and wait for when it pulls off track to meet the driver. It'll take him an extra second to exit the vehicle, because **Torsten Gross** will need to transition out of the BMW's driver seat and into another seat on wheels.

Confined to a wheelchair since 1994, Torsten recently discovered the joy and thrill of auto racing. He was the teenager no one wanted to ride with, and now he gets to push those limits legally and safely at one of the world's premiere racetracks close to his home in Sharon, CT.

An extreme sports enthusiast, Torsten does marathons, and is the only quadrapalegic certified rescue SCUBA diver. "My first time on the track, I never forgot the feeling of independence. I do a ton of sports, but often need assistance. This, though - zero help is needed. I drive myself to/from the track and can do a TNiA event on my own like any other able-bodied driver."

Hand-controlled racecars and paralyzed drivers are becoming common at tracks and SCCA events. At the Runoffs this year, the first female quadrapalegic driver, **Karah Behrend**, qualified and raced in the B-Spec class in a modified Honda Fit.

For new racers, any street-legal vehicle already modified with hand controls can be used at a TNiA or Time Trials event. When it comes to moving up into wheel-to-wheel racing, additional considerations in the build out of the car must be factored. These include cage designs that allow a driver to lift themselves in and out. However, one of the biggest challenges to overcome is the initial vehicle choice to begin with. Unfortunately, hand-controls require an automatic transmission, limiting the choice of cars.

Ironically, Torsten notes, track facilities can often be the biggest hurdle for paralyzed drivers. Registration, timing and classrooms inside buildings may not be wheelchair accessible. Once on track though, they're just like any other competitor. The only other accommodation needed is a quick briefing to safety crews so they are aware and do not expect a wheel-chair bound driver to exit a vehicle immediately if pulled off.

Both TNiA and Time Trials were designed to open motorsports doors to new drivers, and competitors like Torsten are helping open those doors even wider. Just Hands Racing is working to prove anyone, and that means anyone, can get on track.

Visit JustHandsRacing.com for more information.

Photo by Clarus Studios





Photos by Clarus Studios

2022 TIME TRIALS SCHEDULE

May 21 @ Thompson Speedway
September 17 @ Thompson Speedway

Time Trials National Tour
July 1-2 @ Palmer Motorsports Park

2022 TNIA SCHEDULE

Lime Rock Park; Lakeville, CT
June 8-9, July 19, August 11, September 16

New Hampshire Motor Speedway; Loudon, NH
May 12, August 4

Palmer Motorsports Park; Palmer, MA
June 16, September 8

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park; Thompson, CT
April 19, May 5, May 24, June 30, July 11, July 26, August 9
August 30, September 22, October 12



MUD/TROPHIES/TORNADOS

In the final round of National Championship events for the year, the RallyCross Nationals were held October 15-17, 2021 at Ross County Fairgrounds in Chillicothe, OH.

Being held in southern Ohio meant all the NER 9 drivers and teams had a one-day tow to arrive on site. Weather really played a part during the week. Those that chose to camp on-site at the race got to deal with tornado warnings and taking refuge in the maintenance building for the fairgrounds!

Chang Ho Kim's outstanding efforts brought home "a come from behind" win in SFWD, the sole National Champion for 2021 from NER. He was joined in class by **Hal Denham**, who started out a little conservative but marched up the standings to a respectable 4th by the end of the week. **Kim Hapgood** finished 7th, just outside of the trophies, but she was smiling!

The drive of the event has to go to **Jeff Denmeade**, who put on a brilliant display Sunday climbing over some very talented drivers. This was his first RX Nats, and putting in fast run after fast run, Jeff "drove like a Denmeade" per his wife, and rose to the occasion,

nabbing 2nd out of 28 drivers in the MAWD class.

In the Prepared AWD class, **Clifton Kangas** fought hard, but was bested with a bit of unfamiliarity in the mixed conditions. **Warren Elliott** had to share Jeff Denmeade's right hand drive EVO 4 for the last four runs on Sunday, unfortunately dropping to 7th.

Vaughn Micchiche really embodied how much fun you can have at a motor race event. His smile and enthusiasm was infectious. He made a last minute decision to leave the Audi A4 at home and rent a SIERRA to take on pro driver Cole Powelson. Watching Vaughn get to grips with the Sierra cars was a treat, and he proved his mettle taking 2nd place in the Constructor 2WD class.

Todd Kean, who has spent most of his time on the Solo courses and dominating those competitions, showed his versatility and strengths as a driver by running MAWD in his Subaru. This was his first Nats, and only his second dirt event!

Making his first appearance at the RallyX championships, **George Farrar** finished 9th in SFWD, another solid performance for a novice.

Photo by Jake Namer



2021 RallyCross National Champion

Stock – Front Wheel Drive: Chang Ho Kim

Trophy Winners

Prepared – All Wheel Drive: Clifton Kangas (2nd)

Modified – All Wheel Drive: Jeff Denmeade (2nd)

Stock – Front Wheel Drive: Hal Denham (4th)

Modified – All Wheel Drive: Todd Kean (5th)

Modified – All Wheel Drive: Warren Elliott (7th)



Photos by Rupert Berrington



2021 NER RallyX & RallySprints

The RallyCross team hosted events at the new 508INTL course, Rochester Fairgrounds, Union, ME, Canaan and the Blue Lot in Okemo, VT. No season points were tallied for the year. RallySprints were held at Team O'Neil.

Photo by DaggerSLADE Media



Photo by Carter Hall



2022 SCHEDULES

The Solo, Rally, and Club Racing boards have released the following schedules for the 2022 season.

ROAD RACING

April 21-22
Thompson Drivers School

April 30 - May 1
#1 Opening Weekend + CRE
Palmer Motorsports Park

May 14-15
#2 Bob Introne Memorial + CRE
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

June 24-25
#3 Paddock Crawl
Lime Rock Park

July 8-9
#4 Northeast Majors
Thompson Speedway

August 6-7
#5 Hawaiian Luau/RAL + CRE
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

August 20
#6 Midnight Madness Night Race
Thompson Speedway

September 10-11
#7 Pig Roast + CRE
Palmer Motorsports Park

October 14-15
#8 Championship Weekend
Thompson Speedway

BOB INTRONE MEMORIAL RACE

On October 11, 2021, NER lost long-time flagger, steward and leader Bob Introne. For more than 40 years, Bob chased cars as a flagger, sat in the Stewards chair, and mentored countless drivers and workers. He served on NER's Board of Directors, was the Regional Executive, was the Area 1 Director, and even held the position as Chairman of the SCCA National BOD. He will be missed, but his legacy in SCCA continues through his wife Carol, son and daughter-in-law Steve and Melissa, and two grandchildren that will be on track this year.

Bob lived for over 30 years in New Hampshire, serving in the state legislature for twelve of those. To recognize his contributions, the first event at New Hampshire Motor Speedway of the 2022 season will be named in his honor.



RALLY

RALLYSPRINT/RALLYX

Jan/Feb/Mar: 508 Winter Series

Feb 19: RallySprint

April 23: Blue Lot Spring

May 14: Mt Snow

June TBD: RallySprint

June 11: Union, ME

Aug 7: RAL

Sept 24: Blue Lot Fall

Nov 6: Joker Lap

Dec 3: Wolf Chase

ROAD RALLY

Feb 12: Winter Challenge

Mar 5: Frost Heaves

April 2: Cape Codders
Courageous

June 4: Big Lap

Aug 6: RAL

Sept 10: Hurdle

Oct: Grab Bag

Oct: Witch Way

Photo by DaggerSLADE Media

AUTOCROSS

Devens Airfield Dates

POINTS EVENTS

April 3 & 24

May 15 & 28

June 12

July 10 & 31

August 21

September 18

October 10 & 31

SCHOOLS

May 14 & June 26

STIRLING MOSS RUNOFF

October 9

TEAM CHALLENGE

October 30



ROAD RALLY ROUND-UP

Written By: Jon Lamkins

Despite the continued worldwide pandemic, the NER Rally program persevered and proved its versatility and resiliency with a full season of events in 2021.

John Buffum's Winter Challenge once again kicked off the TSD season in February with 28 teams tackling the Vermont winter roads. **Mark Stone** and **Marc Goldfarb** took the overall and Class A victory with **Daniel Praetorius** and **Colin Roddy** taking Class S.

April brought a brand new TSD event, **Paul Poor's** Seacoast Scramble. 15 teams accepted the challenge of this day into night event in Southern New Hampshire. Mark Stone and Marc Goldfarb took their second overall/Class A victory with the team of **Jamie Beliveau** and **Ben Mitchell** winning Class S.

The Road Rally season then took a break until August with two events within a week of each other.

John Buffum made his second contribution to the TSD season with his traditional Summer Challenge Rally over the roads of Northern New England. The event had 18 entries. **John and Jennifer Smith** took overall and Class S victory with **Paul Choniere** and **Frank Beyer** victorious in Class A.

One week later the GTA (Game Tour Adventure) season kicked off with the Lamkins family's Hurdle 2021. Also, part of SCCA's National GTA season, Hurdle had 18 entries and had teams searching for answers in

Northeast Connecticut. Veteran competitors **David and Carol Mulligan** scored their first ever event victory, starting a trend of first time GTA wins by veteran teams.

The GTA season continues in September as the Rally program joined the Racing program at their Pig Roast event at Palmer for Rally Against Leukemia Presented by RockAuto.com, also organized by the Lamkins family. 9 teams went searching for clue answers in the picturesque eastern Springfield, Massachusetts County countryside. **Dawn Peterson** and **Allison Lucier** scored their first GTA team win.

The GTA season finished on Cape Cod with the 46th Cape Cod Courageous Old Timers Rally. Rallymasters **Gerry and Julie Goulet** moved the event to October from its traditional April date because of the pandemic. The change in date rewarded 31 teams with a sunny day with temperatures in the 70's. Cape residents and veteran competitors **Richard Miller** and **Jessica McGillis** scored their first victory. For their effort, Gerry and Julie won the programs 2021 Rally of the Year award. And for their many, many years of dedication to the Cape rally, they became the second ever recipients of the Ted Goddard Lifetime Achievement award.

TSD and the overall NER Road Rally season ended in early November with **Mike Beliveau's** Grab Bag Rally. 24 teams had a great day rallying through Central New Hampshire. **Scott Beliveau** and **Chris Regan** took the overall and Class A win while **Matt and Kathleen Henry** were victorious in Class S.

2021 Season Champions

Class A Driver: Michael Beliveau
Class A Navigator: Chris Regan
Class S Driver: Chris Wright
Class S Navigator: Paul Poor

Rally of the Year:
Cape Cod Courageous Old Timers Rally

RallyMaster:
Gerald and Julie Goulet

Cameron Dewars:
Chris Regan



WE DIDNT LISTEN WHEN
OUR PARENTS TOLD US
TO LET OTHERS GO FIRST.

EBX

3

KODAK



2A

3

→ thank you workers



RETURN ADDRESS:
PIT TALK
SCCA, NEW ENGLAND REGION
18 HIGHCLERE RD
WINDHAM, NH 03087

