



TRACK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MAHONING VALLEY REGION SCCA

Regional Executive

Reed Kryder
330-854-4889 (w)
reedkryder@aol.com

Assistant RE

Brad Morris
724-877-2104
mvrbrad@verizon.net

Secretary

Greg Alley
330-877-7748
gregorvalley@ymail.com

Treasurer

**Editor, Membership
Merchandise Chairman**
Sandi Kryder
330-854-4889
kryderacing@aol.com

Trustee 2014

Tom Nutter
330-534-1286
tbutter53@gmail.com

Trustee's 2014-2015

Paul Morrison
724-336-2914
fuelport@hotmail.com

Chris Bell

330-289-3522
miatadriverchris@gmail.com

Trustee's 2015/2016

Matt Smith
330-603-2146
chefmattcc@gmail.com

Brian Vondran

330-318-4352
bvondran@rtiintl.com

WEB SITES

MVR - www.mvrscqa.org
DIVISIONAL SHOOTOUT- www.nelsonledgescup.com
SCCA - www.scca.com
KRYDERACING - www.kryderacing.com
FUELPORTS - www.fuelports.com
NESCCA - www.nescca.com

MVR Specialty Chiefs

Registration

Sandi Kryder
330-854-4889
kryderacing@aol.com

Tech Chief

Paul Morrison
724-336-2914
fuelport@hotmail.com

Competition Licensing

Bill Kasmer
330-547-2576
kkd@zoominternet.net

F & C

John Davis
440-259-4195
davis3597@roadrunner.com

SCCA National Office

800-770-2055
www.scca.com

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MVR MAY CALENDAR

May 4, 2015 **DATE CHANGE**

NEW LOCATION

**AMEN CORNER SPORTS BAR & GRILLE
20 W. MAIN ST.
GIRARD, OH 44420**

Meeting Time: 8:00pm

Come early for dinner.

REport - Reed Kryder

On Saturday, April 25 our Region once again conducted a very successful Tire Rack Street Survival program at Boardman Park. We had lots of volunteers and the participants and their parents were very appreciative of our efforts. The only disappointing factor was the small turnout. Six participants was the lowest turnout we have seen since our first event several years ago. Going into last fall's event we had only 4 signups on the Monday before the event. We ended up with 12 after a last minute rush. This year we had 6 on Monday and were hoping for a repeat of 2014's late entry rush. It didn't happen. On the bright side, the local newspaper ("Vindicator") sent a camera man and a reporter. They spent half the day at the event and the write-up in the Sunday edition was very positive. They also mentioned the possibility we would be doing another event later this year. We also had parents from a nearby baseball event asking for information. One of these days all these things are going to align just right and we will experience a large entry.

We have also agreed with Steel Cities Region to co-host the September 19-20 Regional races at Pittsburgh International Race Complex. Details are being worked out. Discussions will continue at our May 4th meeting and their May 6th meeting. If you are a racer or volunteer, make sure you mark this event on your calendar. For many it will be the first opportunity to run on the newly expanded PIRC race track.

A solo program was also discussed at our last meeting. There are two local Regions currently putting on solos. Their events would be excellent opportunities for those interested to attend and learn what is required. I believe we already have a couple of members planning on attending the event scheduled on Saturday, June 20 at Salem High School. It is being organized by the Northern Ohio Valley Region. Contact NOVR RE Joe McMullen for additional information. novr@wizco.net or 330-744-4828.

Our membership meeting is once again being held on a Monday and the location is the same as last month. There was a motion at the last meeting to formally move the meeting to the first Monday of the every month, but we have had a couple of problems with that date arise since then and we also failed to exactly follow MVR By-Laws in making the motion. We can still do it, but I am going to suggest at the May 4th meeting we evaluate several dates and locations before changing By-Laws. Please show up at the May 4th meeting to make you opinions known.

See you at the meeting,
Reed Kryder, RE

Membership Report

We have about 175 members including dual members.

Welcome new member Ronald Ferris.

A reminder to the following that your membership is due for renewal in May:

Jon & Cindy Beck
Caleb Brink
Bill Seibold

Happy Birthday Wishes go out to:

Jon Beck	5/17
Matt Carson	5/23
Alessio Caruso	5/10
Karen Counselman	5/10
Chris Dercole	5/19
Christie Hrovat	5/12
Kaylee Knuggs	5/9
Steve McElroy	5/16
Jim Morgan	5/28
Ton Nutter	5/30
Bryan Salchak	5/21
Ryan Wexler	5/5

Expirations:

Jim S Royal and Robert Stahlman need to renew their memberships, or risk being dropped.

Track Night at Pitt Race - Brad Morris

The SCCA started a new program this year called Track Night in America. Basically it is like the Funday track days out at Nelson Ledges and a host of different names at other tracks. The biggest difference is it is held on weeknights instead of weekends. This opens the program up to members that usually have their weekends buy already and gives the participating tracks an opportunity to have additional time in the weeknights to bring in some much needed money to keep open. The price is competitive and you end up with three 20 minute hot track sessions. Novice group entries get additional paced sessions to learn the course.

For the first event in our area at Pittsburgh International Race Complex (Pitt Race is the only track near in the program, Gratten being the next closest) Jim Royal and myself went down to play, Jim in his street Renault Alliance and me in my Miata. Jim chose to be in the Work / Run form of entry while I went for the full program. Work / Run is based on solo II entry system where you get a significant price reduction for working as

a volunteer and getting one hot track session.

It was fun doing hot laps on a different track and I was able to get into a decent lap time after figuring out the entry to turn 7. It was well worth the money, even on the less than optimal tires I was running and I will probably go back for some of the future dates.

I spoke with some of the track management about the July and August events to see if the new full course will be used since they come after the opening. We running only the north course in April. No decision had been made yet as they were waiting to see what sort of turn out the events would draw. The first was pretty good with approximately 45 cars taking part which sadly is what we had at our September Regional Races last year. The Track Night in America events are limited to street cars but if they start running the full course in July it would be a great way to learn the new layout before racing in the Majors race in August or the Regional race in September. I know I will be trying out the full course if it is available.

The event schedule for the rest of the summer is currently

May 12
June 09
July 14
August 11

If popular enough the schedule may be extended into fall.

Minutes of the April Membership Meeting

April 2015 membership meeting 14 people in attendants opened 8:00 pm by R E Reed Kryder.

There were no minutes from the March membership meeting.

Treasurers report was approved as read.

Safety day at PIRC April 12th 9:00-3:00.

MVR region to help Steel Cities region at PIRC for an event in September. Mark Connolly & Paula Hawthorne were in attendance, to discuss the track events this year at PIRC, including a Majors race in August & Regional in September. Sandi Kryder motioned, seconded by Greg Alley to co-sanction a regional with Steel Cities in September at PIRC. Motion Passed. Brad Morris mentioned keeping the Nelson Ledges Cup award for this event.

Street Survival - April 25th at this time we have four students so far.

Solo - Event with NOVR June 21st at Salem High School MVR workers to help at this event.

Matt Smith made a motion seconded by Brian Vondran to change MVR membership meetings to the first Monday of the month at Amen Corners. Motion Passed.

John Gingery motioned to adjourn seconded by Brian Vondran. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Greg Alley, Secretary



Ohio Chaplain's Notes April 2015 Ghost Tracks

Dreams. Several times I have had the dream. It takes place back at Thompson Speedway in that little corner of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts on the old road course. My first driver's school (yeah, the one with Paul Newman) and my first race (the one where I went from last to third before spinning in the rain and finishing sixth) were there back in the ancient history, Showroom Stock Year One, 1972. I dream it is time to go racing and I am not ready. Various versions consist of the car not being ready, not being able to find parts of my driver's suit, or not being able to find the false grid. Is this the not the typical racer's anxiety dream? Even after being out of the cockpit for a few years it comes back. Which is what happened at Thompson. After being one of the venues in great feature *Ghost Tracks* in Sports Car Magazine, road racing has returned. Someday I hope to see the new facility and retrace the old course.

The site of my first SCCA win has not been so lucky. The beautiful and fearsome course at Bridgehampton, Long Island is no more. Incredible views of Long Island Sound made it beautiful. Fearsome? Well, from the first time you swept down the hill at the end of the main straight, you knew it was synch up the belts tight time. Ultrafast with unfriendly sand dunes daring you to make a mistake, the Bridge was an awesome challenge to both the amateur and the pros of series such as the Can Am. Many residents in the Hamptons resented the track and eventually it was made into a golf course. In the be

careful what you wish for category, the fertilizers used on the course are damaging the aquifer that supplies water for the area. Maybe we racers weren't so bad after all. It's another place on my revisit list.

Sadly, my home track of Nelson Ledges has become a ghost track for SCCA racers. After a stuttering start in 2014 under the new management, things started to improve by the fall regional with a statement that they were doing things right. But a winter of no communication caused both scheduled events for 2015 to be canceled, an incredibly sad experience for many who have invested so much of their time, energy, and money at Nelson.

Thompson or Bridgehampton, which way will Nelson go? I pray it returns better than ever. A comeback is an appropriate thought in this month of Easter as we celebrate the most important resurrection in both history and eternity.

Chaplain Marvin Gray chapnlrc@aol.com