# **ESNARLING EXHAUST** FEBRUARY'12

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FEBRUARY 2012

The Central New York Region of the

Sports Car Club of America

www.cny-scca.com

SCCA National Office: 1.800.770.2055

The Snarling Exhaust is published 11 or 12 times per year as a service to the membership of the Central New York Region of the Sports Car Club of America, Inc.

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month. This deadline applies to everyone, honest.

All editorial opinions expressed in this publication are solely the opinions of the author, and are not necessarily representative of the policies of the Central New York Region or of the SCCA.

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On the cover: Close up (maybe too close) of the top of the ice cream cake at this year's awards banquet. Thanks Jay!

### From the Editor -

What a terrible winter! Personally, I like the snow, even though I don't ski (at least not in any capacity I'd like to brag about here). Sure, sometimes it can create some headaches, but let's be honest, without a fresh blanket of the white stuff CNY is a pretty unattractive place to be this time of year. Besides, there's nothing worse than thirty six degree rain, that's just awful. It's also an indicator of how warm it's been, too warm to freeze the lakes solid enough for ice racing. I'm not an ice racer myself, but I can image how frustrating it must be. What would it be like to have a summer without any racetracks for Club racing or lots for Solo events? Torture!

Speaking of Solo, we may not have our schedule finalized yet, but this long "winter" does afford us plenty of time to prepare for next season. Vehicle modifications or full blown replacements are common this off season, with many of our most active members making big moves for the coming season. Scott Newton, unhappy with just how large his consistent raw time dominance was last year, has purchased a new Fmod with more power. Rob Sgarlata 86'ed the SVX for an MX-5 (see page 11 for more). Karl Hughes has said he'll be shifting his attention toward the shifter kart. Shifting, get it?

As always though there are questions. Will Mark Bizzozero's Mini have a fully functional engine for the full season? With David Page coming out of Novice, will he be able to challenge Garrison Mosely in SM? Evan Haas on r-comps the whole season. That's a nightmare for anyone with plans to hold the top PAX spot come October. Some of our region's fastest drivers were M.I.A. last year, will this year see the triumphant return of Speedy Pete and Mike Dinofrio? I may be able to find more speed myself, as I felt more comfortable and got faster every race last year in the Cmod. With a fresh set of Hoosier gumballs I should be able to start challenging Scott for a few FTDs this year.



And then of course is the venue discussion. It looks like Seneca Army Depot is out this year, sadly. The State Fairgrounds is still expensive so we're unlikely to have more than one CNY region event there. The good news though is it looks like we may have an out of region event there as well. Love it or hate it, that means Cherry Valley kart track is once again the majority of our schedule, by default. But hey, it could be worse, you could be an ice racer right now. There is the slim possibility that we may end our season at a beautiful new slab of asphalt at Central New York Raceway Park. I'm not holding my breath, but it would be a wonderful way to end things if they can get it built in time. Of course, if anyone reading this has ideas or inside lines (more racing word play, you're welcome) to new venues that may be suitable for Solo use, please contact either myself, Mark Bizzozero, or Scott Newton.

Now I'm off to the garage to purge the car of those terrible British electronics...

-Dustin Ehrlich



### **Cool links**

www.cnysubies.com (check out the Motorsports section)

www.axisofoversteer.blogspot.com

www.trackpedia.com



## Call John for special SCCA pricing

## **Event Schedule**

February 8th - CNY Monthly Meeting, American Legion, Liverpool NY, 7:00pm

February 25th - Rallycross, Walczyks Farm Night Event, Weedsport NY

March 14th - CNY Monthly Meeting, American Legion, Liverpool NY, 7:00pm

March 25th - Rallycross, Walczyks Farm, Weedsport NY



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# Assistant R.E. Report

From the Assistant R.E., Ed Leubner

#### Happy New Year!

I started jotting down some ideas for this column at the beginning of January. At that time the winter season had started out pretty mild, much to the dismay of the Winter Rally and Ice Racing competitors I'm sure. But being upstate New York, I just waited a couple of days, and it's back to winter as usual – cold and snowy. As I send this off to Dustin, we're back to no snow on the ground. Gotta love Central New York!

#### Awards Banquet

The CNYR Annual Awards Banquet at Nestico's Restaurant was a good time with members sharing good food, bench racing, and acknowledging the award winners in our two main racing series - Solo and RallyCross. In addition, John Lehman from CNY Raceway Park was also in attendance. John gave us an update on the progress of the future track in Central Square. Keep your fingers crossed for some possible racing activity later in the year! Finally, many thanks to Rob Sgarlata for putting on a great event. If you did not attend, you should plan on going to the next one.

#### SCCA National Convention

The 2012 version of the SCCA National Convention is scheduled for March 1-3, in Las Vegas. All SCCA members are welcome to attend. The program schedule is out and available on the SCCA website. It includes various programs for every aspect of SCCA racing activities. Sounds like a good reason for a vacation to Sin City. However, if anyone does go, what happens in Vegas — at least at the SCCA convention, needs to come back as a report and Snarling article — the rest is optional.

### Winter Car Distractions

For those of us not into the winter outdoor sports and with limited access to working on the summer toys (meaning a freezing garage), we are forced to get our





car related fix through the annual new car show circuit and the Speed Channel. Yeah, I know, we're supposed to be working to improve both the competition vehicle and that loose nut behind the wheel during the off season regardless of obstacles.

The new car circuit starts off with the Detroit Auto Show and travels around to the various large cities where each of the auto makers try to wow the masses with their latest and greatest models, particularly the high performance ones. This year's hot topics being the Acura NSX and Ford Fusion concepts. However, even Syracuse's own Auto Expo at the OnCenter in February is fun to attend. Syracuse may not get the cool concept cars, but being able to see, touch, and get that new car smell from cars that are not caked with salt and dirt in February is a welcome break. Regarding the big shows, typically there is no shortage of auto show coverage on the main auto news related websites such as www.speedtv.com; www.autoweek.com and www.windingroad.com to name a few.

Mid-January also starts the desert car auction series. The most heavily advertised one being the Barrett-Jackson Auction held January 17-22 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Speed channel carries live coverage every evening for the entire show. This is always a fun one to tune into and watch for both the unique collection of amazing vehicles and the jaw dropping prices many of them end up selling for. Where else can you see everything from over the top restored 70's Muscle Cars, to Packards, to BMW Isetta's? I guess being lucky enough to be one of the attendees who get to sit in air conditioned comfort sipping cocktails while placing 5 and 6 figure bids, definitely falls under the category of car guy nirvana!

continued ----

Moving on to a category of cars that drive faster than a walking pace across a stage, there is the 24 Hours of Daytona on the last weekend in January which is televised for almost the entire 24 hours. This is quickly followed by the NASCAR gang firing up again for their 2012 season with speed weeks at Daytona starting Feb 18th and finally the Daytona 500 on Feb. 26th. This year the racing hype is in overdrive with Danica Patrick driving in her first 500.

For those of you interested in something other than the ovals, Speed also carries a number of the races from the British, German, and FIA Touring Car series. There is something about seeing expensive European cars decked out in full racing trim running door to door that just can't be missed. Unfortunately, Speed only seems to show these races at weird hours since they can't seem to break away from continuous showings of Pass Time or Dumbest Stuff on Wheels.... The DVR is your friend here.

For some really wild racing and unbelievable demonstrations of car control, nothing can beat the World Rally Championship series. I'm sure some of the RallyCross crowd watches this looking for new techniques. Last year, this series was being televised on the Velocity Network (ex-DiscoveryHD). Unfortunately, I have not been able to find it listed on their schedule this year. However, you can always go to the WRC website ( www.wrc.com ) and get all the updates. I'll be watching to see if Sebastian Loeb can make it a record 9th championship. (As a side note, he is off to a good start having won the season opener at Monte Carlo.)

And finally, if you are too busy working on your car as you should be, you can always watch the Speed Report on Sunday evenings at 7pm on the Speed channel. Although it tends to give more coverage to NASCAR, they do cover many of the other racing series. Again, the DVR is your friend so you can fast forward through the garbage. At the present time, the Speed Report probably has the best overall consolidated racing coverage on TV.

Watching racing on the TV or internet is certainly not quite as much fun as participating, but it's better than nothing when it is freezing outside. Besides, we're more than half way through winter! So enjoy these distractions, and remember, no excuses for not being ready for the competition season.

See you around the grid! Ed Leubner



Latest Issue: http://www.scca.com/assests/12-fastrack-feb.pdf

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# **Event Review**

**Rob Sgarlata** 

With January comes our annual awards banquet, and this year 40 members of our SCCA family collected at Nestico's for food, friends, exciting door prizes and trophies to acknowledge our fastest folks on wheels.

Much credit should go to Ed Leubner for acting as our host in Mike Donofrio's absence. It's unfortunate that Mike couldn't join us, as he'd been selected by James Quattro, last year's recipient, for the award of Member of the Year. This well-deserved recognition was presented at the next general membership meeting.

Special guest John Lehmann took some time to field questions about the Central New York Raceway Park, which is expected to begin construction in the spring.

A good time was had by all. We'll see you at the picnic!



James Quattro awards himself a large wooden trophy.



Garrison Mosely receives the 7th place PAX trophy for his work in his SM Subaru 2.5RS (with a WRX heart transplant).

Driver. Solo Chair. Model. Mark Bizzozero shows off his second place PAX trophy, edging out Evan Haas by just one point!



ALL DALLARD

Scott Newton receives the fourth place PAX trophy.

The car: 2000 Mazda Miata LS, stock as the day it left the boat.

**Reason behind purchase:** I had a wish list of features for my next car that involved drivetrain, price and performance. It also had to be civilized, common and have a folding top. The Miata is nearly the only car that fit, and its notorious nature as a great street and autocross car sealed the deal. This particular one is a North Carolina native car that I picked up at a November price, in ready-to-go condition.

**Race modifications:** It'll get a set of Star Specs and new brakes in time for the season to start. I'll likely do some suspension work later. After reliability issues and the need for more tire than would fit left me a little sour on Street Mod in my last car, I figure Street Touring is a better place for my daily to run. This is nice: the PAX multipliers for CS and STR are only .002 apart!

What else?: I've been hiding the car from road salt, so I really haven't had a lot of opportunity to drive it to offer an impression! The nimble nature of the car is exciting. Although it's a tight fit at my height, even though I look over the windshield at higher traffic lights I still have improved headroom with the top up.

The Miata should provide an interesting season for me. I'll be experiencing an unfamiliar drivetrain layout, a much lighter mass than I'm used to, and a style that lends more toward speed retention than reclamation. The sound and the brutal fury of the Miata's predecessor will be missed, but I believe this will be a better tool for advancing my skill.

I suppose my "pray for rain" days are over for now!



# 2012 Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Tour Schedule

March 9-11 Dixie National Tour South Georgia Motorsports Park Cecil, Ga.

Mar. 16-18 Sun Belt National Tour Texas A&M College Station, Texas

April 27-29 Southern Pacific National Tour Qualcomm Stadium San Diego, Calif.

May 18-20 Northeast National Tour at East Rutherford MetLife Stadium East Rutherford, N.J.

May 25-28 Spring Nationals Central States Championship Lincoln Airpark Lincoln, Neb.

June 8-11 Summer Nationals Southern States Championship Arkansas Aeroplex Blytheville, Ark.

June 29 – July 1 Western States Championship Hampton Mills Packwood, Wash. July 13-15 Colorado National Tour Pikes Peak International Raceway Fountain, Colo.

August 3-5 Northern States Championship at Grissom Grissom AeroPlex Peru, Ind.

September 4-7 Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Championships Lincoln Air Park Lincoln, Neb.

October 26-28 Tri-State Challenge National Tour Arkansas Aeroplex Blytheville, Ark.

# 2012 Tire Rack SCCA ProSolo Schedule

Round 1 April 13-15 Maryland ProSolo TBA

Round 2 April 20-22 Mineral Wells ProSolo Mineral Wells Airport Mineral Wells, Texas

Round 3 May 4-6 El Toro ProSolo El Toro Airfield Irvine, Calif.

Round 4 May 25-28 Spring Nationals Lincoln ProSolo Lincoln Airpark Lincoln, Neb.

Round 5 June 8-11 Summer Nationals Blytheville ProSolo Arkansas Aeroplex Blytheville, Ark.

Round 6 July 6-8 Packwood ProSolo Hampton Mills Packwood, Wash. Round 7 July 20-22 New Mexico ProSolo McGee Park Farmington, N.M.

Round 8 July 27-29 Toledo ProSolo Toledo Express Airport Toledo, Ohio

Round 9 August 30 - September 2 ProSolo Finale Lincoln Air Park Lincoln, Neb.



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To apply for a membership in the Sports Car Club of America, the world's largest motorsports enthusiast organization, please complete the form below and return, with payment, to SCCA Membership Department, P.O. Box 299, Topeka, KS 66601-0299.

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# What is the SCCA?

The Sports Car Club of America is the world's largest automotive motorsports organization and has set the target for motorsports competition and motorsports event management in North America for over 60 years. The SCCA has remained the benchmark and is recognized as the gold standard in the industry.

The SCCA hosts a myriad of motorsports activities to satisfy any interest you may have as a sports car competition enthusiast.

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*How about those of you with a need to play in the dirt?* SCCA's RallyCross® program offers competitions similar to Solo events on loose surfaces. RallyCross also has a very competitive National championship structure.

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