



April 2010

RE CORNER (Jim Garton)

Our 2010 season is off to a good launch. We held 2 events at Cliff's Amusement Park, so called Winter Series. Even though the lot is a bit small we held good events and saw many new entrants. Your RGR board is working hard to develop local venues, watch for more news on that in the future.

At Farmington we tried some new procedures to create more runs and eliminate those long cone-chasing assignments. We learned a lot and some adjustments are being made at the next event putting more fun back into those long weekends.

There has been some interest expressed in trying Rally Cross, an autocross in the dirt. A venue has been located and Jake Wright is working with the City of Albuquerque to gain permission. Since Rally Cross is a different SCCA type event we are working with Colorado Region Rally Cross Program to come down and provide Safety Steward training and help our region put on this event.

News coming from Sandia Motor Speedway, new paving, and new cutoff roads allowing different road race configurations. We will be looking to see if we can use these new configurations in our Road Racing program and maybe Solo.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people in this club that are willing to do the work that makes our events possible. It is a pleasure to work with such a great bunch of folks.

See you at the track.

Solo2 Schedule

(Registration is now at [http:// Motorsportreg.com](http://Motorsportreg.com) Please create a profile and use this registration tool!)

April 24-25, 2010 at Farmington, NM

May 22-23, 2010 at Farmington

Please check the Rio Grande Region website for updates and venue changes.

<http://rgrscca.com/schedule.htm>

SOLO HIGHLIGHTS

SOLO DIRECTOR UPDATE (Jake Dawson)

The 2010 RGR Solo Season

The 2010 RGR SCCA Solo points series is now underway. As many of you have probably noticed, the 2010 season has come about with its fair share of programmatic changes. Here are a few highlights –

- Online registration and payment through www.MotorsportReg.com is now the official means of preregistering for events
- A street tire PAX modifier of 0.98 has been adopted for entrants using street tires in race-tire classes
- Entrants may run as a “Novice” for 3 events, after which they are to join their applicable open class
- Saturday Farmington events will use an altered work/run format
 - Group A runs/ Group B works
 - Group B runs/ Group A works
 - Formula Junior Karts
 - Lunch break
 - Group A runs/ Group B works
 - Group B runs/ Group A works

SCCA Solo National Tour – Mineral Wells, TX

Round 2 of the Tire Rack® SCCA Solo Nation Tour took place on March 27th and 28th. The venue was the Mineral Wells Airport in Mineral Wells, Texas. The facility was originally a helicopter training ground for various branches of the military between 1956 and 1975, at which point it was officially deactivated. The portion of the airport rented by the SCCA was a 40 acre asphalt skid pad, which had been thoroughly cleaned and prepped by the host region. For 3 long days, the Mineral Wells Airport became a home away from home for many tire-toting race enthusiasts.

Out of the 212 registered entrants, 16 of RGR's experienced auto-x members made the 600 mile trek to the event. The RGR group competed in a variety of classes, ranging from the near-FTD-setting F125 class to the pavement churning SSM class...and everywhere in between. While some of our entrants had trouble finding the fastest line around the 1+ mile courses, others were able to grasp the top position of their class. Overall, the RGR group did an excellent job of representing our club at this high-profile competition.

There's a new game in town!

By Erich Schwaller

The PAX rating has long been a way for autocrosser's to compare their times to each other regardless of classing. PAX is best described as a relative index of performance, similar to handicapping in golf. The PAX index was developed by Rick Ruth and reflects the study of results from various Solo II events across the nation each year. The A-Mod class represents the ultimate in autocross specific race car design resulting in a PAX rating of 1.000, or no handicap. Using this class as the benchmark it is then possible to calculate the times the other classes should be finishing the race by multiplying the finishing time by the PAX rating. So, if an A-Mod car finishes in 50.000 seconds, the PAX time is 50.000 seconds. Now let's look at the black #27 Honda Civic Si that runs in the ST class. ST gets a PAX rating of 0.824 and since that #27 is so fast we'll say he finishes the race in 60.000 seconds. This gives him a PAX time of 49.440 seconds, beating the A-Mod driver in PAX time even though the RAW time is 10 seconds slower! What a driver!

Newly developed for this season is the PAX Team Competition. Team racing has been popular in many other regions but hadn't been adopted in the Rio Grande Region until this season. Former Solo Director Tom Reynolds really got the ball rolling on this competition before the autocross season started in order to get rules and teams finalized. Shortly afterward, current Assistant Solo Director Jacob Dawson and I took over the organization and upkeep of the program from Tom.

There was much discussion on the local chat list in order to ensure the rules were fair and the teams were complete. Shortly before the season's first autocross, rules were posted and teams locked in for the season. Teams consist of 2-6 members with up to 3 members' best times averaged for the day's score. In addition to the PAX average there is also an attendance bonus. Depending on the percentage of team members who show up, each team is allowed up to 1 full point bonus added to the day's score. This will help those teams that might not PAX well but has a full team attend the event. Conversely, it can hurt a team that PAX's well, but has a difficult time getting the full team to show up to events. Hard to believe anyone would want to miss a race but sometimes you just have to drive that Miata to the hairdresser's.

10 Teams were finalized for the season with many teams taking advantage of the 6 member limit. One controversial team, Team Solterror, has only 2 members. The controversy with this team is that they have a distinct advantage when it comes to PAX scoring since there are only 2 members. However, they won't get any scores for the day if one of the team members can't make it to an event and they aren't eligible for the attendance bonus. It's a gamble but that's what makes the competition fun. Everyone has a strategy and so far it looks as though the teams are keeping their secrets better than Ferrari keeps design plans from McLaren!

After the first two events of the season, both in the fantastic lot at McGee Park in Farmington, we've got local PAX masters from Team Slow Children Playing in the lead with 197.70 points. The balding Team Rogaine/Wrong Turn Racing in a close second with 196.61 points. Not far behind bringing up third place are the drivers that always seem to be hopping into someone else's car whether they are welcome or not, Team Car Sluts with 194.86 points. If you want to follow the results or have questions about Team PAX competition, join the chat list at: <http://groups.google.com/group/rgrscca-chat?lnk=>. Find more information on PAX at: <http://scca-chicago.com/solo/indexes/rtp2010.html>

PAX Team Results 04.03.2010

Ranking	Team Name	Points
1	Slow Children Playing	197.70
2	Team Rogaine	196.61
3	Team Car Sluts	194.86
4	Rally Rocks!	187.95
5	Solterror	186.92
6	Team Geezer	185.12
7	Team Travelers	183.86
8	Team ViA	182.36
9	Team Leyland	0
10	The M-Gang	0

Road Racing Schedule

April 17-18, 2010 Double Regional by Continental Divide Region at Pikes Peak International Raceway at Fountain, CO.
[Supp Regs will be MotorsportReg.com](http://MOTORSPORTREG.COM)

May 8-9, 2010 Double Regional by Colorado Region at High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO.
[Supp Regs will be MotorsportReg.com](http://MOTORSPORTREG.COM)

Road Race News (Larry Haynes)

Well time to dust off the racecars, change the fluids, tune up that engine and alignment and oh by the way get that new set of tires mounted.

The first race of the Rocky Mountain Division will be at High Plains Raceway with a trial of a Double School on March 27-28. **WHOA** Snow delayed the event to April 2-3! The holding of Drivers Schools is almost a money-losing event due to the low turnouts. Also with the economy the way it is CO region and CD Region are going to try this event structure so new drivers can attend one weekend and if they complete both days then drivers would have their Regional license. In the past the two required schools may be months apart frustrating the new

drivers by waiting. Also the plan is to rotate this idea of Double Drivers Schools from CO Region tracks to CD Region tracks every other year. Please give your feedback on these ideas and if you attend the March 27-28 event, your opinions of that event to Jim Garton or myself so we may feed back that to the Rocky Mountain Division.

Next we go to Pikes Peak International Raceway for a Double Regional weekend promoted by Continental Divide Region. Now some will notice the location change and date change. Well... Pueblo Motorsports Park in Pueblo, CO was the scheduled venue. But there was allot of discussion with the new management team in the city of Pueblo that certain safety improvements needed to be made to the track before SCCA would race there again. The City of Pueblo has agreed to spend some significant dollars on the paving of parts of the track and re-grading the apex drop off to minimize car damage. That will hopefully start soon therefore CD Region has moved the April 17-18 race to PPIR to allow these improvements.

We in the Rocky Mountain Division are hopeful that between the City of Pueblo and private funds from CMC these upgrades will improve racing and the longevity of the surface for years to come. Also say high to Tom Abbott of CD Region as the new Track Manager at Pueblo and thank him for his and others efforts.

Also note the Enduro has moved from Oct, 2010 to June 19-20, 2010 at Pueblo Motorsports Park. The rational for the move is that the driver turnouts in October and the weather makes it an marginal financial event. I understand the idea but personally I am unhappy that the last Regional Race in Rocky Mountain Division is August 21-22, 2010. An early end to the season? Please provide your ideas and comments to myself or Jim Garton.

JOIN THE GOOLE GROUPS FOR ONLINE INFO AND CHAT:

rgrscca-chat@googlegroups.com; for chat, or,
rgrsccaboard@googlegroups.com, to direct questions to RGR board members

WEB Page: rgrscca.com

LOOKING FOR “Vintage Stuff”

Hey you historian buffs. I am building a RGR Vintage page chronicling our rich RGR Road Racing history. I are looking for some old photos of racing days past to use on the web page and ? If you have some pictures we can borrow please contact Larry Haynes @ lhaynes99@gmail.com

DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO SHARE. WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEWS ARTICLES OR?

Have you tried a new tire or suspension setup and want to tell us about it. How about your experience at an remote event. Road racers welcome. Write a paragraph or two and send to lhaynes99@gmail.com. Larry will edit and help with grammar etc , so don't worry about that. Just send your articles.