

## HUBER'S HASH for JULY of 2015....



by **Walt Huber**

Wow! Four months in a row for one of these reports of things happening in our region and in the area. Plus what's going on among our region members & our friends. That ain't been happening for a while.

On the other hand, some things seem to never change. And that was the case with our national publication, *SportsCar*, for a number of years. Of course, the articles were new each month. But the layout and format was the same -- at least it appeared to me to be pretty much unchanging. However in the last couple of years there have been occasional changes. Most of them good.

I do however miss having reports written by correspondents in the various Divisions. It wasn't that long back when the first thing I would turn to when a new issue of *SportsCar* arrived was "*Knee-deep in NE-Div*" -- the report on our NorthEast Divisional happenings which was written by **George "Gee-Dub" Henderson**. George's "Knee-Deep...." always kept North-East Division members aware of the goings-on in our division. You perhaps read about events of which you were aware; events you might have attended. Or maybe it was an event you wished you'd been to. And you read about folks you knew. Or folks you knew simply by name. It brought the club home to you. Made it personal. Unfortunately, those divisional reports have gone away.

And there have been some recent changes to the SCCA website -- I'm referring to the national club's site, not our region's website. I'm not too certain that I like all the changes. But perhaps that's because I do go to the <http://www.scca.com/> site somewhat frequently and I'm a creature of habit. My grey hair inhibits my ability to accept and work with change -- seemingly most especially when the changes are to the operation of an electronic device.

Having mentioned the SCCA website, let me also offer up a reminder to keep your information current there. If you are reading this off an e-mail received at your current e-mail address, then at least that part of your information profile with the club is current. However, if someone had to tell you about this in a forwarded e-mail, then you've got to go to the SCCA's website -- <http://www.scca.com/> -- and go thru the sign-on procedure so that you can then bring yourself up to date.

Coming up next month will be our **Pocono Divisional Races**. We will be conducting this event along with **Philly Region** and the **NorthEast PA Region**. These are the two remaining Tri-Region members, following the pull-out of South Jersey from the Tri-Region group. I believe **RE Chris Mosley** and **Treasurer Brandon Fetch** have been trekking out to Easton, PA on a monthly basis recently to attend planning sessions for these Divisionals.

I mentioned last month about having lost our Rally Coordinator, **Fred Cochran**, to cancer. In a note to the Board of Trustees recently, **Peter Schneider** wrote that he would take over this function -- and the BoT, of course, accepted. Peter is an old rally pro and was our region's rally

guy prior to handing the reins over to Fred many moons ago. As has been mentioned previously in this column, Peter has won the **AICan 5000 Rally** -- no mean feat! His record of participation and successes in rallying would fill a book. Plus he and wife **Joanne** have travelled as far as to Australia to participate in rallies. Now that's dedication to a sport!

On June 16th **Kenneth Burke** graduated from North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High

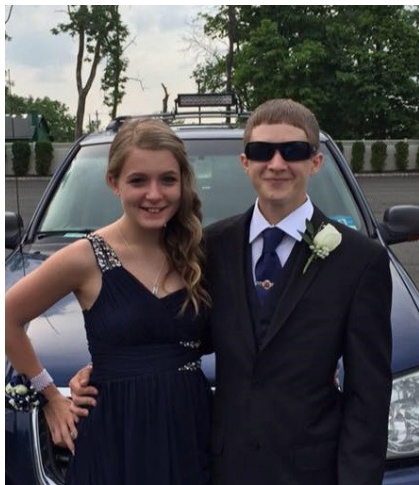


School . Kenneth is the son of **Jeffrey and Sharon Burke**. Many of us who participate on the 'Race' side of club events remember when Kenneth was a 'track brat', seemingly not all that many years ago. But time marches on and Kenneth ain't a kid any more.



I think we can all be very certain that there was a very special guardian angel who was smiling down on her son so very proudly and most lovingly on the evening of June 16 as he accepted his diploma. Also present at the graduation and also smiling broadly & lovingly were Daddy Jeff, Granddad Bernie, and his Aunt Marla.

Of course, a few weeks prior to graduation, there was the Voorhees Senior Prom which Kenneth attended with his steady girl, Hannah.



Kenneth's dad, Jeffrey Burke, reports that Ken recently completed his Emergency Medical Technician training and is now fully qualified and licensed as an EMT.

Ken has always been very 'community service oriented' -- a trait which he inherited from his parents. He was one of three Voorhees grads who successfully completed EMT training



this past year and are now licensed as EMTs. Kenneth is also working on becoming a fireman.

He will be attending the Morris County Fire Academy this summer and will be a fully qualified firefighter upon completion. When he celebrates his 18th birthday in September he will be able to participate in all aspects of fire fighting.

I'm wondering if there's anyone in the NNJR Solo community who would be willing to pen a report on the events going on in Solo. Now that our region has our name on only one wheel-to-wheel race event a year, it's apparent that the focus of the competitive membership is on AutoCross or Solo. I have not participated in Solo for many years. I believe the last time I ran a Solo, the Region was conducting them on a Rutgers lot in Piscataway. It had to be back in the late '70s. It would be nice to know more about that corner of NNJR activity.

Or, if someone would supply me with some info about the events, participants, exceptional runs, etc., I would try to give it a few paragraphs here.

A while back I had a paragraph or two about the "red light camera" programs in use by various cities around the country. Ostensibly installed to make our roadways safer by identifying and penalizing scofflaws who motor through intersections while the light is turning red, they just happen to be a huge source of revenue for the communities and the states which share in the fines levied.

However, to enhance the revenue 'earned' by the cameras, and with the blessing (encouragement?) of the red-light camera contractors, towns frequently shorten the duration of the yellow sequence at these intersections. When an investigative reporter from a TV station in Florida did a series on the abuses of the shortened yellow sequence, the state legislature mandated longer yellows. With longer yellows, in Tallahassee alone 'offenses' dropped by over 60%, from 20+ thousand to just over 8,000 per year.

In Tallahassee, red-light cameras had generated \$6.3 million through December 2013, with \$3 million going to the state, \$2.8 million going to the red light camera vendor and less than a half-million bucks going into the city's general fund.

So when Florida's capital city realized that their portion of this revenue would virtually dry up, although their portion of the costs to operate the system would remain high, the city announced that its red light camera contract would not be renewed. *Safer roads, indeed! Bull Crap!*

Good news in Boston! Apparently the city of Boston went through its worst ever winter this past season. More snow blanketed Boston than ever before in the history of the city. And at some



point last winter they began making a huge pile of the white crap. By the end of winter it was some 75' high. And, finally, on July 14th, after much warm weather this spring and many days of high heat so far this summer, the last of this humongous pile melted.



The August issue of *SportsCar* listed one Northern New Jersey member as celebrating a significant membership anniversary -- **Charles Damanski** has been an SCCA member for thirty years. Congrats to Chuck!

Apparently the NNJR Board of Trustees meeting for July was cancelled in favor of holding a combined planning meeting for the August Pocono event. Philly Region and NE-Pa Region members were in attendance also. And not only was the meeting changed to a new date, the location was changed to a restaurant west of Hackettstown. Although I'm not a member of our Board of Trustees, I usually try to attend -- both to keep myself informed about our Region and also to be able to report on our region's activities in this column.

The location and purpose changes of the July gathering were not reflected on the NNJR website's directory of "Upcoming Events" and I was ready to head for either Stephano's or the Montville Inn for the Board of Trustees meeting on the 14th. When I inquired on the Tuesday date of the regularly scheduled meeting evening, I found out about the date and location change. So please remember to check with a BoT member if you wish to attend a meeting and bring some matter to their attention. Call and ask! Hey - You know that I sure will!

I've written about several US flags in previous columns. I've mentioned about the travels of our **Joe & Linda Flight 93 flag**. And in another issue I wrote about a flags tribute project at the Borough Hall here in Kinnelon.

But this month's mention is about a flag which is flown on certain holidays, generally those with patriotic overtones, by a homeowner on Powerville Road in Boonton Township. It's a huge garrison flag which is hung between two large trees on the homeowner's property.

It's an impressive sight to be driving along Powerville Road, crest a small rise in the roadway and then see this humongous flag suspended in the homeowner's yard. This is not a flag you pick up at Home Depot for a couple bucks to hang outside your front door! Which, of course, brings up the corollary question:

**Where the hell did they get it!?!**

I took a photo when this flag was displayed over the Memorial Day weekend in May. I'm guessing that the flag is well over two stories tall.

**Long May It Wave!**

