

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



by **Walter Huber**

Back again. ...With comments about things and situations I've noticed as I've travelled around as well as more of the goings-on in our club and the nearby SCCA area.

To be sure, I'd like to be telling you more about what's happening among our SCCA family here in NNJR and the NorthEast Division. But as many of you are aware, my involvement and participation in club activities has been limited in the last year and a half since Nancy suffered a stroke.

That was at the end of November in 2013. She was in Morristown Hospital for more than three weeks -- most of her stay in the ICU. Nancy remembers almost nothing of December 2013 which is probably a good thing. Then she was at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange for about five weeks. At Kessler Nancy got excellent care from **Aminah Zecca**, **Bob Zecca**'s wife, and from others on staff there. That allowed her to be transferred to a "sub-acute" facility much closer to our home for a period of over four weeks before she finally was able to return home late in February last year.

As a result of Nancy's medical situation, our usual summer schedule of weekends attending SCCA race events was very much abbreviated last year. I was to about a half-dozen events in 2014 -- each time for only one day. Nancy was out for one event only. And while Nancy's recovery continues, improvement is slow, and we've not been to any events this year through the month of July.

But Nancy's health is not the only causal factor. We're also deep into the process of down-sizing. After 28 years in this home, we will be moving. This has been the longest that I've ever lived in one home. And after 28 years, we've accumulated a whole bunch of "stuff." So now begins the task of separating the good stuff from the crap. We are negotiating the purchase of a much smaller home in a nearby town.

In last month's report I wrote about **Kenneth Burke** graduating from high school and completing his Emergency Medical Technician training to become a full-fledged member of the Califon First Aid Squad. Recently, it happened that Kenneth was one of the first responders on a cardiac arrest call. When the squad chief arrived on the scene, Kenneth was already there and was performing CPR on the victim "like he'd already been doing it for years," said the chief. "He made decisions and called out orders to others as they arrived. I have never been so impressed with one of our junior members."

Ken's father, **Jeff Burke**, reports that the chief made this report to an assembly of the entire Fire Company's Rescue Squad and went on about Kenneth for about two minutes, telling the other squad members about what he'd witnessed. This was not something the chief had to do. He

simply felt he needed to share what happened with the members of the entire squad. Daddy Jeff said, "I was brought to tears, I was so proud."

...And equally proud also are all the rest of us in the NNJR-SCCA family who have known his folks, Sharon & Jeffrey, since back when Jeff & Sharon were dating in the late 1980s, and have known Kenneth for his entire life!



And it has been reported that another of our younger members, another member who got his SCCA membership card the same week that he got his birth certificate, has also graduated from high school. **Phillip Haines**, son of **Pam & Jeff Haines** and younger brother of **Tim**, graduated from high school this June and will be starting college at the University of Maine come fall. Phillip was captain of his high school football team. He made the National Honor Society as well as

the Spanish Honor Society. Other achievements while at Newton High School include attending Boys State at Rider University last summer, four years of Ski Team (co-Captain in Jr. & Sr. years), four years on the Student Council, as well as various choir and stage performances throughout his H.S. career.

Phillip earned Scouting's highest award, the Eagle Badge, in 2012. He added five Eagle Palms for service work and additional badges earned over and above the Eagle Scout requirements. A grand total of 48 merit badges -- only 21 are required for Eagle. Plus he held various troop leadership positions. Congratulations, Phillip!

Also last month I wrote about a flag which a Boonton Township family displays on select patriotic holidays. This flag measures 15' x 25' and is suspended between two large trees in their yard. The Longo family has been flying this flag for 26 years. It replaced an earlier 48 star flag which had been stolen (& was never recovered) a few years earlier. Early in the 1990s an attempt was made to steal this flag also. However, the family had improved the means of suspending & securing their new 50 star flag. The new cables and locks thwarted the attempt. These thieves were caught & they wound up serving time.



**National Night Out** is conducted in communities across the country on the first Tuesday of August. It's

intended to promote awareness of various community services and programs such as police, drug prevention, neighborhood watch and other similar community oriented programs. I saw a sign in the Chathams which announced that there would be a ducking tank -- you know, someone sits on a stool and another person throws a ball at a target. Hit the bullseye and the stool-person is dropped into a tank of water. The ducking tank would be located at the town hall. Wow -- Assuming that the stool-person was to be a member of the local government, what a great way to vent your frustrations with the town fathers! Almost makes you want to move there, don't it!?!?

**Peter Roberts** of the New England Region missed an event at Lime Rock recently. He had planned to attend the race event and was scheduled to be there, but his doctor had other ideas about where he should spend the weekend. The doc's plans superseded Peter's and instead of volunteering his services at Lime Rock, Peter wound up spending a day and a half in a hospital having a pacemaker installed. After continuing his recovery at home for about two weeks, Peter and his newly installed electrified cardiac assistance, were at Pocono for our event there. And **Terry** had to do double duty at Pocono -- primarily as Chief of Registration, as well as riding herd on Peter to prevent any over-exertion on his part.

While we are reporting on cardiac episodes, I should mention that our Chief of Timing & Scoring, **Linda Louie**, will also be having some repair work done on her ticker this month. Linda's cardiologist found that her heart function is at a dangerously low level. Despite this ominous diagnosis, Linda has continued to work T&S at one race track or another each and every weekend since the finding. The culprit is her aortic heart valve -- it's gotta be replaced. So this month, on the 20th, Linda's gonna check in to a shop which does business under the name of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, NJ. They do repair work on people's hearts and they're gonna replace her aortic valve. The generic name for this sort of repair job is "open heart surgery" so please say a prayer, keep a good thought, rub a rabbit's foot, visit a shaman, do a voodoo dance or whatever means you prefer, to help effect a positive outcome.

***Extra! - Extra! -- Late-breaking update!.... Paragraph added updating report on Linda's surgery:*** All went well with Linda's five-hour long aortic valve replacement surgery and she is recovering in the hospital. She will also be spending some time in a rehab facility before being allowed to return home. Her surgeon told her that he had "never seen an aortic valve that badly calcified *on a living person.*" So it appears that it was high-time to pull in for a pit stop and a valve job to get this malfunctioning original equipment part replaced.

Meanwhile, back at home, **Bart Carlevaro** is probably trying to think of ways to keep Linda from heading out to a race track -- any race track -- after she gets home, but before the doctor gives his "Okay." Bart, I can't imagine that there's anything you'll be able to do that'll keep Linda from the track. Hiding her car keys, chains & padlocks, guard dogs, armed security police, whatever... It's probably not gonna work. You might possibly want to check with Terry Roberts to see if anything she tried on Peter worked. But face it, Bart -- I doubt that there's anything that will work.

Big **Joe Russell** is settling in to his new digs up the road, just across the state line in Port Jervis, New York. Joe had been living in Dunellen for a whole bunch of years, but when some medical issues arose earlier this year and after he'd spent time in a hospital and a rehab joint, he officially made the move to *Nueva York* about two months ago. His new crib is much closer to where his son, Little Joe, lives -- so that's a real plus. And while he's now closer to Lime Rock, he is also now a number of miles further away from NJMP where Joe volunteers most of his SCCA time. Joe was at Pocono for the day on Sunday smiling broadly & enjoying doing his Tech thing!

Having written about Tech & Pocono, I'm reminded that one of our SCCA folks experienced a medical situation over the Pocono weekend. **Dennis Steskal** is a Philly Region member and was the scheduled Chief of Tech for the Pocono race event. Dennis was at Pocono on Friday and worked the entire test day, leaving for his home in the Easton-Bethlehem area late Friday. When Dennis was not at the track early on Saturday, **George Bloeser** phoned his home. Although Dennis was able to answer the phone, George realized that Dennis was babbling incoherently and was in medical distress. 9-1-1 was called and dispatched to Dennis' home. As suspected, he had suffered a stroke and he is now recovering in a Bethlehem hospital. Wishing Dennis a speedy and complete recovery!



With Dennis in the hospital, the Tech Chief position for the event was 'open'. Northern NJ's **Jeffrey Burke** stepped in to take over. A licensed & experienced Scrutineer, Jeff stepped in and handled things for the weekend. As a result, the conducting regions voted Jeff "Worker of the Event!" Thank you, Jeff -- and "Good Job!"

Several NNJR folks are celebrating significant membership anniversaries. **Ed Benovengo** joined SCCA forty years ago. Also, **Linda and Tom Burdge** have been members for 25 years. Congratulations to all!

**Lou Giallanella** is listed among members who have volunteered for 30 to 39 days in their area of worker specialty -- Flagging & Communications in Lou's case. Thanks, Lou!

At the start of this month's column I mentioned about Nancy & I not having been to any race events this year through the month of July. Of course our region's name was on the Pocono Divisional races in early August along with Philly and NorthEast Pennsylvania's names. (Why that group is still referred to as "Tri-Region..." since the pull-out of South Jersey, is beyond me. I guess they count things differently in Pennsylvania. Yeah, maybe President Obama studied math in Pennsylvania and that's why he counted fifty-seven states as having been visited on his campaign trail back in May of 2008.) Since our NNJR name was on this event, Nancy & I did want to make it out to Pocono. It was also the first weekend we've slept in the motorhome this year and that was a fun thing. All went well for the weekend and Nancy got to see (as well as be seen by) many friends of long standing.

The weather was superb all weekend -- a rarity for Pocono. The entry for the event was strong and the racing was safe. The entrants enjoyed most of the improvements to the track and track management's attitude toward renters is better (for the most part) than it was in the past. Our **Flight 93 Flag** was displayed at the winners' podium. All-in-all, an enjoyable weekend.

Mike Fenno was not at Pocono for the NNJR races there. But Mike usually supports each and every NNJR race event! Why wasn't he at Pocono? Well, it was because he was more than half-way across the nation. (Hmmm - in Pennsy/Obama math, that'd be about 28 or 29 states away!) But no, Mike and Barb were on vacation. And they love travelling around out west. They'd driven to Utah towing a U-Haul with a Miata on the trailer. Seems a friend had forgotten to take the car with him when he moved out to Utah. (Gotta wonder about this puppy's memory!) But Mike's a good guy and he said, "Sure. We'll tow that car out there for ya.")

Anyway, Mike's SRF had been damaged at the NJMP Majors Races a few weeks earlier and was still in repair, so he couldn't've raced Pocono anyhow. "Might as well drive to Utah, if I can't enter the race. What the hell."

Mike and Barb have gotta get back to the right coast soon, though. They've got tickets for a flight to Munich for early next month. Seems there's a new car waiting for them in a town just outside of Munich. But they better be careful, 'cause a week after they take delivery of their new toy, a Bavarian tradition since around 1810 will begin in München with the Bürgermeister tapping the first keg of Oktoberfest Bier! Mike - You probably don't want to be driving your new car around that area while Oktoberfest is going on!

And in closing this column, I have to include this.... I have a 'Google Alert' on my computer which sends an email alerting me to any mention in the media of the **Flight 93 Memorial** which



had been published on that particular day. Earlier this month, a file photo was published in the Regina Leader-Post, a newspaper in Saskatchewan, Canada. It was attached to a story about the visitor center currently under construction at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville. This new visitor center is expected to open next month. It's a lovely and touching photo of a lady

planting a kiss upon a name engraved on the Wall of Names at the Flight 93 Memorial.

It happens that I recognize what the scene in the photo is all about. Each year since the dedication of the Wall of Names on the tenth anniversary of the attacks back in 2011, the Memorial has invited a friend or relative of each of the folks lost on Flight 93 to participate in a *luminaria* candlelight ceremony on the evening before Sept 11th. This photo was taken at one of these annual candle *luminarias*.

The forty invited participants step off from the entrance portal at measured intervals at dusk -- about 7:30 -- each carrying a lantern containing a lit candle. The participants slowly process the several hundred yards out to the Wall of Names. Each stops and places his/her candle in front of the tablet on which their friend or loved one's name is inscribed. After about an hour, as the evening begins to darken, the process is reversed and the guest marchers return for their candles and slowly process back to the entrance portal.

In 2012, Nancy and I were honored to be invited by the National Park Service to participate. Nancy carried Linda's candle and I carried Joe's. It was quite emotional and humbling. The person in this photo has just put her lantern down in front of her loved one's name tablet and is offering a kiss before proceeding onward. Having participated in the *luminaria* in 2012, I know this photo was not taken that year. But Nancy and I are familiar with the emotions which this lady is experiencing.

And oddly, as I am typing this, an e-mail arrives from the Flight 93 Memorial inviting participation in this year's *luminaria* on September 10th, (True, no bullshit) Yes, you're probably saying, "What a coincidence!" And you may be right -- it may simply be coincidence. But I ain't buying no freakin' coincidence! Whether you call it 'circumstance' or 'happenstance' or simply a 'fluke' or a 'twist of fate', I'm tellin' ya that this sort of stuff keeps happening with too darn much regularity! I am totally certain that it's those two jokers 'up there' screwing with my head once again -- and all the while, laughing their asses off!