

HUBER'S HASH for **SEPTEMBER** of 2015....



by **Walter Huber**

Hello once again! I'm back for the sixth month in a row with some information about what's going on in our club and in our SCCA environs as well as some things I've seen or heard about which I thought were interesting. But my info is primarily sourced from the wheel-to-wheel race portion of our club's member activities.

I'm hoping that this news-posting will be paired with a **Nuts & Bolts** column from **RE Chris Mosley**. While I do try to attend our region's Board of Trustees meetings each month, there's always a lot of regional info not discussed at these meetings which members may be interested to learn. It's been standard practice going back as far as I can remember that there be a monthly column of region information coming from the top.

And, as it appears that we're moving away from being primarily a "racing" region and are now becoming primarily a "Solo" region, it would be great if someone from the Solo community would step to the plate and also give an update periodically. Perhaps they could "grow" the Solo event attendance if more folks knew what was going on in Solo. (Then again, perhaps if they doubled their entry, the Solo folks would reduce the number of runs they get per event & they're being selfish.) Regardless, the region should be celebrating its successes in this activity.

Each of the approximately 110 SCCA regions around the country and beyond has a geographic area assigned to it. (That's probably why they're called "regions".) When you joined the SCCA, you had the opportunity to select a "Region of Record" (your 'RoR') -- in other words, your 'home region.' Usually that is where your primary residence is located. But students who might spend ten months out of the year in another state, might select a different Region of Record. Or a "snowbirding," or retired couple might choose to stay with a more familiar, northerly region, despite spending a bunch of months in a warmer southern climate. It's up to the member.

That said, the SCCA "territory" assigned to the **Northern NJ Region** is the thirteen northern counties of our state. NNJR is all the counties from the New York state line at the north end of the state, down to & including Mercer and Monmouth counties. Conversely, **South Jersey Region** has the eight NJ counties at the south end of the state.

The foregoing paragraphs have been a public service message brought to you in order to enhance your SCCA membership experience -- and for no other reason at all.

In the Parsippany section of Morris County there is a large tract of land which was a former psychiatric hospital. At one time this hospital, built over a century ago, back in the 1870s and known as Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, was considered state of this medical art. Now many of the procedures used back then are considered somewhat barbaric. The hospital and this

property are no longer in use as a hospital -- haven't been for a number of years -- and several of the buildings are being demolished. Much of the property once known as Greystone Park, will be converted into a county park.

I recently had occasion to drive through this park area and saw an interesting sculpture. It is a



soaring eagle with a wingspan of 28' and is 18' from beak to tail.

I learned that this sculpture had previously been situated since 1980 on the property of Kraft Foods in East Hanover, NJ, about ten miles away. When Kraft recently sold this property to Mondelez, the buyer donated this sculpture to the county and the Eagle landed in this newly created park. It had

been designed and fashioned by an artist named Timothy Fox. He cut the feather-like pieces from oil drums and other scrap. The talons, head & beak were originally chromed pieces of automotive bumpers, primarily from the old VW Karmann-Ghia. The piece weighs about 4000 lbs and took over 2000 hours to complete.

When the "hybrid" cars currently available and the several electric models coming out shortly are running in full electric mode their powertrains make very little noise. While this is a "perk" for drivers & passengers, it has created safety concerns for pedestrians who are blind or hearing impaired. Some regulators believe it could constitute a safety issue for these pedestrians. That led Congress to pass a law in 2010 ordering the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to issue regulations requiring "quiet cars" to make more noise.

Yeah! -- just what we need! -- more traffic noise! More "fart cans" replacing mufflers. More open exhausts. More loud Harleys. More opportunity to be stopped at a traffic signal and hear what some knucklehead thinks is "music" coming from an ear-splitting boom-box in a vehicle three lanes over! **Boom!-Shaka!-Boom!-Boom!-KaPow!-Bang!-Wham!-Boing!-Blam!-Boom!- Bash!** Oh, goody-goody Gumdrops!

Former Area 1 Director, **Bob Introne** and his wife, **Carol**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the last weekend August. Bob also filled in for a couple months as CEO of the SCCA while the Board of Directors conducted a search for a new president. The Intrones are

New England Region members. Since finishing his two terms on the BoD, Bob has been active as an SCCA Race Steward & is currently Deputy Exec Steward. Carol volunteers in Timing & Scoring. They're both very active! Congrats to the Intrones on this milestone -- and many more happy years!

In August I wrote about Philly Region's **Dennis Steskal** having suffered a stroke during the weekend of the Pocono event. Following a very busy Friday at the track, Dennis had gone home for the evening and, when he didn't return to the track on Saturday morning, it was learned that he'd had a stroke. Dennis was in a hospital for a while and is now in a rehab place. Some of the Philly folks have visited him and report that he is coming along. Speech has been affected, but from recent reports, Dennis is progressing in that area also. Keep up the good work, Dennis. Hope to see you at the track real soon! If any wish to send a card, he is at the Phoebe Rehabilitation Center, 108 S. Main St. (Rm 207), Richlandtown, PA 18955.



A recently received notification from Topeka announces that the **SCCA National Convention** for 2016 will be back in Las Vegas and once again at the South Point Hotel where our national conventions were held for several years back around the 2009 to 2012 timeframe. The dates of the convention are from January 21st through the 23rd. It will conclude with the Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday evening. More convention information will be forthcoming from the national office as we get closer to January, but if you're thinking about perhaps taking some time and touring in that area of southern Nevada, or in California's La-La-land, or Utah and Arizona, now's the time to start planning.

I'm guessing that the national office folks are not happy with the recent format of the national conventions, since they've announced a restructuring for 2016. "The change in location and format from last year's convention gives us the opportunity to rethink what the convention is and how we can use it to better our Club. To do this, we are looking at the program in three sections: the Annual Meeting and Welcome Party will be Thursday evening, the SCCA Leadership Summit will kick off on Friday morning and end Saturday afternoon, and the convention will close with the Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday night," wrote **Heyward Wagner**, Director of Experiential Programs in Topeka.

Last month I mentioned that **Linda Louie** had had open heart surgery to replace a failing aortic valve. That five hour surgery went well and she was out of the hospital and into a rehabilitation facility less than a week later. Her therapy there also went well and about two weeks post-surgery, she was discharged from rehab to continue her recovery at home.



At least, that's what her surgeon thought.

Of course, that puppy hadn't figured into his equation the fact that Miss Linda considers any Timing & Scoring facility at every racetrack anywhere

in the nation to be her home. So, after being released from rehab on Thursday, September 3rd -- two weeks after her open heart procedure -- Linda was "at home" working T&S at Lime Rock for the annual Vintage Fall Festival event over the Labor Day weekend.

On learning about this potential hiccup in her doctor's recovery plan, several folks made certain that EMS at Lime Rock was fully aware of Linda's presence at the track. Lime Rock's EMS group is among the very best -- plus they're located only about 75 yards away from Timing & Scoring -- much closer than the Montvale Ambulance Squad would have been if something had gone wrong if she'd been "at home" in New Jersey. So Linda would've been in very capable hands had EMS been needed.

All of this once again demonstrates just how knuckleheaded all of us who are involved in this game of sports car racing can be! But, of course, you already knew that.

The mere mention of "the Labor Day weekend" causes so very many of us here in the NorthEast Division of the SCCA -- and most especially here in our own Region -- to recall that Labor Day weekend back in 2001 which was the last race event at which we were privileged to share some time with our fellow SCCA and NNJR members, **Linda Gronlund** and **Joe DeLuca**. There are times when that seems so very long ago. And then, there are times it seems like only yesterday.

This year, all day long on Friday the 11th, I wore my "Uncle Sam" hat -- that's the hat I'm wearing in the photo at the top of this column -- and the same hat I'm wearing in the photo on my SCCA membership "hard-card." It was my own small 9/11 tribute toward the **Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance**. (That's the full & proper name for September 11th by Congressional decree -- or whatever.)

I was driving that morning, but was parked at the curb at 8:46 (the hour when **American 11** had been flown into the first WTC tower), so I was able to observe a minute of silence and reflection. And then again at 10:03 that morning -- the hour when **United 93** was taken to the ground in Stonybrook Township near Shanksville -- I had pulled to the side of the road and was able to observe another respectful & prayerful minute to the heroes of United Flight 93.

But -- **Damn it!** -- I've also got to wonder why I passed so many flags on September 11th which had not been lowered to half-staff in commemoration of that day. Yes, I did complain to the school to which I was delivering a couple of kids, that their flag was being inappropriately displayed -- and they did correct it! But I couldn't stop at every store, auto dealership, school, filling station, shopping mall, etc., etc., where a flag was still displayed at full-staff, to remind them of the significance of the date! **Criminy!** It's only been fourteen years. Have so many folks forgotten? ...don't they care? (Or, as Joe himself might have asked, "Don't they give a '**rat's patoot?**'") I gotta tell yas: It really pisses me off!

("Criminy!" and "Rat's patoot!" are two expressions which Joe liked and used occasionally -- I call 'em "Joe-phamisms." -- However "**Damn it**" and "**pisses me off**" are totally Huber's words!)

Last item.... Received a note from Debbie Zuilkowski-Nathan who lives out in Ohio but maintains her regional affiliation (her 'RoR' -- remember?) with Northern New Jersey Region. Debbie is part of an SCCA Family - her mom, dad & sister have all been members for years. The family was originally all New England Region members, but they are now more spread out. Debbie is married and she and Joe live in Columbus, Ohio. They have a four year old son. Debbie volunteered in Flagging & Communication for a number of years and also holds Fire & Rescue licenses and Timing & Scoring. She knew Joe & Linda. She recently travelled to Harrisburg and made a stop at the United 93 Memorial while heading back home to Columbus. Here's a slightly edited copy of the note she sent me:

Last week, as I was driving to visit family in Harrisburg, PA, I found myself passing through Somerset County on the night of 9/11. There was no stopping as it was close to 2200 already but I promised myself that I would stop on the way back home. Sunday, 9/13 -- It was a beautiful day. The drive through the mountains and countryside was wonderful. About 15 minutes before we got to the park it started to pour. I was concerned about stopping and doing this with a small child (J.J. or Jage, as I call him, will be 4 next month) but I had promised myself that I was going to stop. As I was getting Jage out of the car, the rain stopped and the sun came out. I tried to explain to Jage that this was a sad place and



that mommy might cry. And I did, I was completely overcome with emotion when I saw the wall of names. It was hard for Jage to understand, he would hold my hand and hug me and tell me "don't cry mommy, it's okay, don't cry". The more upset I got the more upset he got---he just didn't understand. But how do I explain what happened there to a 4 year old, when it's still something I have a hard time understanding? People would come over and lay their hand on my shoulder, give it a squeeze



and say they were sorry. I was still crying and the more I cried the more upset J.J. got. A very sweet woman came over with a puppy and asked if Jage could play. I said yes, and she told me to take a moment for myself while she knelt next to Jage. While the puppy licked his face and nuzzled his nose I composed myself, wiped my eyes and was able to face my son again. I left a little note on the wall inside the small room just before the walkway to the wall of names, I signed it with love from the Zuilkowski's and the rest of the racing family. We did not do the new visitors center (we still had a long drive home, it was a long wait Jage through at the moment). We walked the flight path, tears welling again. We stood at the end of the walkway...it's beautiful there. For some reason I find that very comforting. They are in a beautiful place. We headed back to the car, I got Jage in his seat, the stroller in the trunk and as I sat down in the driver's seat it started to pour again. Moments earlier the sun had been out, shining and warm. I think we had a little help from above. I am so glad we stopped and I would like to go back and spend more time, maybe soon



Be well, Debbie Zuilkowski-Nathan

Thank you, Debbie, for your note. I've already shared it with Doris & Elsa -- Linda's Mom & sister out in Sag Harbor -- but I also wanted the rest of our Region and our SCCA racing family to read about your visit to the Memorial. Of course, I love the part about the rain stopping as you were getting out of your car at the Memorial -- and then restarting just as you were getting back into your car after completing your visit. It kind of parallels what I wrote in last month's column about how those two jokers "up there" keep screwing with my head. I'm kinda glad that I'm not the only one those two are getting their jollies off on -- and laughing their damn butts off while doing it!