

HUBER'S HASH for OCTOBER of 2015...



by **Walter Huber**

OMG! What a month! Actually, 'What a couple of months!'

Yes. I know it's November already. And I know this is an October issue of my **HASH** column. But a lot of 'stuff' (I'm trying to be kind by using that word...) has happened in the last weeks. It ain't all been good. And it sure ain't been easy.

Nancy & I moved back in September. We had lived in our Kinnelon home for some 28 years -- and, as you might imagine, we had accumulated a lot of 'stuff' in the almost three decades we had lived there. We've down-sized to a much (**VERY Much!**) smaller home now in the town of Lincoln Park. But we're still sorting through all the 'stuff' we've accumulated, bringing some to the new but smaller place and tossing much of the rest. It's been difficult to say the least. But other factors have compounded these difficulties.

I had a **HASH** column almost ready for **Matt Rooke** to e-blast out to the NNJR membership earlier in October. However, I wanted to wait for more information on the upcoming Area 1 Directorship election. Unfortunately, while I was waiting for more info, my computer decided to crap out. Don't ask me what happened, but some virus or some cockroach or some terrorist or *something* invaded this electronic piece of crap and for three weeks I've been using Nancy's computer while mine was out being rebuilt.

The laptop came home from the hospital on October 29th - two days before Halloween. (*I'm guessing that also carries some meaning in this whole scenario.*) But it also meant that much of what had been prepared for this report is now stale and had to be removed or updated. On the bright side, however, the upcoming Area 1 Directorship has been resolved and I will get into that a bit further along.

I'm hoping that this news-posting will again be paired with a **Nuts & Bolts** column from **RE Chris Mosley** as it was last month. (*With the delay caused by my computer crapping out, that 'last month' would be September.*) Chris has announced that he will not be standing for reelection as our Regional Executive again. He's been our RE for several years. And we thank him for his service.

This year's **nominating committee** has submitted a slate for the upcoming election. (And for the first time that I can remember in several years, the October 1st deadline for submission to the **Board of Trustees** specified in our by-laws was met -- Hooray!) As you read this in mid-October (*well, it should'a been in mid-October*), it should either have already been published (e-blasted) out to the membership or it may be enclosed with this notification. Nowadays, and since we no longer publish an ink & paper newsletter, the by-laws regarding how this information is

transmitted to the general membership have been revised. The by-laws now specify that an e-blast or a posting on the website is an adequate 21st century electronic replacement.

I haven't seen an e-blast with the proposed slate (my e-mail has been fritzed out for over three weeks - remember?), assuming one was sent out, but if you've seen it and you disagree with the proposed slate of officers and trustees which the committee has proposed -- that is, if you think you can do a better job or if you know of another member whom you feel can do better, then you should head for the NNJR website and call up a copy of our Northern New Jersey by-laws (<http://www.scca-nnjr.com/index.php/about-us/by-laws>) and go to **Article VI** to read what you have to do to run in opposition to the proposed slate, or what's necessary to get another member's name on the ballot.

Last month I ended my column (http://www.scca-nnjr.com/images/hash/2015-09-September_Final.pdf) with an e-mail note which I had received from NNJR member, **Debbie Zuilkowskie-Nathan**. While heading back to her home in Ohio on the weekend of 9/11, she stopped at the **Flight 93 National Memorial** in Shanksville. Debbie was travelling with her very young son and she tried to prepare him for the emotional response which she knew she would have on this, her first visit to the Memorial.

When little **JJ** saw his Mommy break into tears at the **Wall of Names**, he began to cry also. Debbie wrote that the two of them had a sob-fest. And while several strangers tried to comfort Debbie, it wasn't until a visitor who had a puppy in tow came over and the puppy began licking & nuzzling JJ's face that the little guy's focus was diverted and Debbie was able to compose herself somewhat.

This is something which is happening with some regularity at the Memorial in Shanksville. Parents of young kids, folks who actually "lived" 9/11 -- and perhaps, as Debbie did, knew people who died that day -- react in tears. And while the parents who lived through 9/11 react emotionally, the kids don't understand. They don't know why their folks are crying. They are too young to remember and understand. The kids didn't experience 9/11 and cannot understand Mommy's & Daddy's reactions, emotions & tears. The **National Park Service** has recognized and is addressing the problem. NPS Rangers along with the "Governors" (local folks who volunteer as docents at the Memorial) are receiving training in how to deal with families with youngsters.

And in another portion of her report on the visit, Debbie wrote about driving through a rainstorm as she was heading for the Memorial. The storm let up just as she arrived at the Memorial. All the while that she and JJ were at the Memorial, the weather was sunny and warm. But as she and JJ got back into her car to leave, it started to pour again. She suspected that there had been "a little *help from above*" with regard to the weather.

When I sent Debbie's note to Linda's Mom, **Doris** wrote back and reminded me how the weather had also been awful on the day -- years earlier -- when Linda's remains had been taken out into

the Atlantic and poured into the ocean. On that day also, the sun came out just long enough for their simple ceremony to be accomplished before turning bad again.

Doris also mentioned that she spent 9/11 quietly this year. She and several cousins who were visiting from Norway went to the **Linda Gronlund Memorial Nature Preserve** and placed flowers on the dedication plaque. And, guess what!?! Although 9/11 was an overcast day in Sag Harbor, the sun came out for just a few minutes while they were placing the flowers at the Park. "...*Help from above*" ? -- Yeah! -- I'd say so!

We've got a couple of significant membership anniversaries to report. **Sergio E Musacchio** has been a member for 25 years. **William C Kaiser, Jr.** and **Nick Scirocco** are celebrating 30 years membership. Congrats to all three of these gents as they celebrate these membership milestones with NNJR and SCCA!

But more on the **Area 1 Directorship**. Although earlier this past summer at least one other member had been considering campaigning for the position, that person dropped out of the running. And earlier in October, when the date by which petitions for nomination to the position closed, **Northern New Jersey member Bob Dowie** was the sole nominee. Bob's been a member of the SCCA since 1987. Bob & his wife, **Leslie**, have been NNJR members all the while, although they live in Chester, New York.

The **SCCA Board of Directors** has a meeting in early December each year and it is likely that Bob will attend, although he will not be a voting member until his three-year term starts in January. And it is not as though Bob has to familiarize himself with the other Directors on the Board or with how the Board conducts its business. Nor does he have to meet and learn names of the SCCA staff in Topeka. He's already well-known to all these folks! For a bunch of years in the first decade of the 2000s, Bob worked closely with the BoD when he served on the Club Racing Board -- the CRB -- which goes over proposed racing rules changes and makes recommendations. Bob was the Chairman of the CRB for several of those years. I consider Bob Dowie to have been a most excellent candidate. He will serve the interests of the three Area 1 regions well I'm sure. Northern New Jersey, New York and New England Regions are fortunate to have such good continuing representation on the SCCA Board of Directors!

Bob will replace outgoing **Area 1 Director, Dick Patullo**. Term limits prevent Dick from continuing as our representative. He has served six years and must retire from the position.

A couple of Rally notes before I close this edition. The **Mini Bucks County Explorer Rally**, originally scheduled to be contested on October 3rd, was rescheduled for November 7th. More info and an entry form can be downloaded at: <http://www.sjr-scca.org/images/rally/2015/2015-fff-flyer.pdf>

And don't forget that our **NNJR Teddy Bear Rally** will be coming up in early December. That is always a pleasant ride in the west Jersey countryside and the entry is a stuffed Teddy Bear which the region donates to the **Marine Corps Toys for Tots** program.