

## HUBER'S HASH for **DECEMBER** of 2015....



by **Walter Huber**

Yes – This is the December issue! And, if all goes well here at this computer which I'm using, it will be forwarded on to your home in this same month of December! I mentioned in my November postings (which got to your in-box early in December), and also in my October column (which arrived at your home in mid-November) about problems I was having with my computer. While all my computer problems have not as yet been resolved, these glitches, along with some other factors have caused the delays in getting timely issues into your hands in recent months. Hopefully we're finally beyond all that now.

Well, things are finally looking up here at home. Nancy & I are settling in at our new (to us) home in Lincoln Park. Movin' ain't fun. We're slowly clearing out our former home in Kinnelon – tossing stuff – bringing stuff to Lincoln Park – giving some stuff away -- and wondering what we're gonna do with a bunch of other stuff. As I said: Moving ain't fun.

Moving along.... Our NNJ Region is not as heavily into Rallying as we once were, so for most members, we are now into the slowest part of our club year. Wheel-to-wheel racing ended for 2015 back in October. And the last 2015 Solo was in November. The Region held its **Annual Dinner** and we elected officers and Trustees a week before Thanksgiving. Plus our traditional **Teddy Bear Rally** was conducted on December 6<sup>th</sup>. So the necessary business items required by our club's by-laws and the competition portion of our club's year have wound down for 2015.

**Chris Mosley** gave a report on the **Teddy Bear Rally** in his **Nuts & Bolts** column a couple weeks or so ago. I had wanted to compete in the rally but my rally partner in recent years, **Fred Weber**, had installed a new starter motor on his little MG-TD on the day before the rally and -- after lying on his back for much of Saturday and cussing his cute little MG up, down and sideways while doing this chore -- he said that he wanted to rest up on Sunday. And while **Nancy** has run the Teddy Bear with me a bunch of times in the past, she's had some medical issues in the more recent past and she declined my invitation to occupy the Navigator's seat for the event. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive running of this event, and I'm one of the folks who has run almost all of them. I'm sorry I missed it this year, but there's always next year.

At the **NNJR Board of Trustees** meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>, **Chris Mosley** told how much he and **Linda** had enjoyed running the rally. Appears that **Chris** hadn't participated in any rally for well over a quarter century and he reported that **Linda** & he had a great time. A couple other teams from NNJR competed in the rally and apparently also enjoyed the event.

So, if you want to have a fun day on the first weekend in December next year, head for the **Subaru dealership** on Route 46 in Budd Lake and bring a teddy bear which will be given to a needy kid through the **Marine Corps' Toys for Tots** program. You'll not only have a fun time on the rally, but you'll also feel good about having helped some needy kid's Christmas!

While I've mentioned the "winding down" of our competition activities with the coming of winter, I've got to also point out that the SCCA does not grind to a complete halt in the 'off' months. The **National Convention** will be coming up next month on January 21<sup>st</sup> thru the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Earlier this year the convention was on the east coast, but for 2016 the SCCA will be heading west again.

The convention is scheduled at the **South Point Hotel & Casino** in **Las Vegas**, Nevada. SCCA's annual convention was there a number of times in the past handful of years. I just can't remember which years. On December 8<sup>th</sup> at the NNJR Board of Trustees meeting there was some discussion about several of our members attending. Newly elected Regional Executive, **Brandon Fetch** will attend with his wife, **Melissa**. And Trustee **Chris Mosley** expects to be there with wife, **Linda Santangelo**. And I believe that Trustee **Peter Schneider** indicated that he and **Joann** planned to also head west.

And you may have heard that the traditional **NorthEast Division** spring **RoundTables** will no longer be held. In recent years the attendance at the RoundTables, which had been conducted at a hotel in the Poconos, had fallen off. There being no RoundTable, our NNJR Board has decided to hold our annual **Region Party and Awards Gala** a bit later. Instead of the last weekend in January, the NNJRP&AG will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>. And once again, we will be at the Packanack Lake Club House in Wayne, NJ.

Lots of folks like winter – and they like snow. Well, if you're into skiing or snowboarding or serious rallying or ice skating or any of the myriad wintertime fun activities, that's great. But I ain't into any of that anymore. When I was a kid, I enjoyed a lot of that stuff. But no more. And after all the snow we got last year, I'm hoping we get some relief from the white stuff this winter.



One of the contacts from whom I receive mail included a cute photo of a situation which had already taken place during an early season snowstorm out west. Whoopie! But I've gotta wonder: How in the hell do you manage to stand a car up on end like that?



**Bunny Jenkins** sent me info on another of our NNJR members who is apparently into horses. Bunny is on an advisory committee at Montclair State University. As finals time rolls around for the fall semester, some folks from an equine therapy program at **Hope's Promise** in Chester brought some miniature horses to the campus to help students as they cope with the stress of final



exams. One of the ladies showing the miniature horses was our Region's former First Lady, **June Cioppettini**. The Newark Star-Ledger carried front page photos of June and the equestrian group with students at the college.

The photos caption reported that "To help students cope with the stress of final exams, miniature horses pay a visit to Montclair State University on (December 10<sup>th</sup>). June Cioppettini escorts Rafael as he struts his stuff."

And notice that these little horses are wearing hi-top sneakers. I don't know if the sneakers are only part of the show or whether they're needed when the horses are on campus. Perhaps June can tell us.

A couple of months back I wrote some paragraphs about our US flag – and specifically, our **Linda & Joe Flight 93 Flag**. In one of those columns I had mentioned about the general lack of recognition on days when our National Ensign should be flown at half-staff – either on those specific

holidays when half-staff is appropriate, or resulting from sorrowful current events and a specific order from the US President or our Governor. Okay, so I'm a "flag nut."

Once again I write again about having been out and about earlier this month, on December 7<sup>th</sup> – the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, when our nation was forced into World War II – and seeing the lack of respect by so many businesses as well as individuals who did not display the flag at half-staff. As I wrote a couple months ago, it pisses this Flag Nut off! If you're gonna display our Stars & Stripes, then do it appropriately! Damn it!

If you need to be notified as to when your flag -- or your company's flag -- should be lowered to half-staff, sign up at this location: [http://www.aflag.com/store/halfstaff\\_notificiation.asp](http://www.aflag.com/store/halfstaff_notificiation.asp) This internet address, and various flag company sites also, will send you an e-mail on the day prior to a half-staff day.

I think I inadvertently missed making mention of 25-year member **Thomas Healy**'s anniversary with the club. Tom celebrated a quarter century in October. And the *SportsCar* issue which arrived most recently announces that **Maria Zeckhausen** is also celebrating 25 years as a member. In addition, **Ken Frey** is now a 35 year member. Congrats to Tom, Maria and Ken on these milestone anniversaries!

And our Northern New Jersey Region had four folks listed in *SportsCar* as having put in more than 40 days worked – volunteered – at SCCA events in their specialties! Only one region had

more folks listed in this category and that was San Francisco Region – a “Jumbo Region” with several times as many members as NNJR. Congrats to **Linda Louie, Bart Carlevaro, Dave Panas and Bill Etherington** for all the days they’ve volunteered at the track this year. And as I mentioned on this subject one time previously, **Lenore Panas** goes to and also works all the races that Dave heads out for. So I’m thinking her name should be on this listing also.

All in all – it’s been a very good year. And so, as the Holiday Season is upon us, I will wish everyone a **very Merry Christmas** – or whatever name is given to your holiday at this time of year! And along with that, most sincere wishes for a **most Healthy** and a **very Happy New Year 2016!**