



# HUBER'S HASH for MARCH

by **Walter Huber**

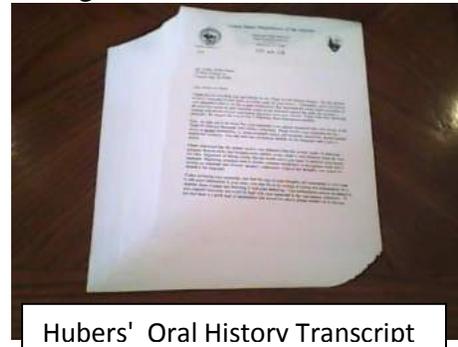
Me again.

We are getting close to coming into our Region's warmer weather months of competition again. We will soon be starting our Solo competitions. And **Peter Schneider** has a rally coming up soon.

Racing? -- Well, our name is not on any wheel-to-wheel event. But the **Devil in the Dark** twelve hour endurance race in south Jersey at the NJMP's Thunderbolt track will be coming up shortly and the registration for it has opened. Things will start hopping again soon!

**Nancy & I** received a package in the US mails the other day from the **Flight 93 Memorial**. Earlier we had received a phone call from **Kathie Shaffer** of the National Park Service telling us that the package would be sent. The package contained a transcribed & printed copy of our recorded interview for the **Flight 93 Oral History Project**. Several years back we spent over two hours talking with Kathie about **Linda & Joe**, the folks our Region lost back on 9/11. The recording tapes of this interview have been transcribed and that interview now comprises sixty-one typed pages of material. We've been asked to proofread it for errors and to elaborate where that might be felt necessary.

Gotta tell ya --it wasn't easy to read and effectively relive the interview. Several times in the transcribed account the typist has inserted a parenthetical "(laughs)" when a topic which Nancy or I is speaking about has brought a remembrance of something humorous. And as you might imagine, when talking about Joe, that happened quite often. But almost as often, there is the notation "(sighs)" or "(voice seems about to be overcome with emotion)" -- and even two spots with the notation: "(cries)". When we got to those spots in the transcription, it was often quite difficult for us. We will get through it -- Yes, we will. And we will eventually receive a final corrected copy of the transcribed file from the National Park Service.



Hubers' Oral History Transcript

And I know that there are a bunch of folks reading this report who knew Linda & Joe -- but who have not signed up to offer their 'membrances to this Oral History Project yet. Okay. Let me put it simply: "You ought'a, dammit!" I can give you a 'phone number. I've got the number for the Memorial on my phone. You can even use my phone. Do it. You'll probably feel some strange emotions about it. You'll laugh while doing the interview -- and you'll feel sad at times -- maybe even cry. But I will betcha that you'll feel good about having done it after you see & proofread the result. Do it, Damnit!

And, while I'm on the topic of folks we've lost.... The other afternoon I had to be in Bergen County and I found myself on Paramus Road in the vicinity of Paramus Cemetery. I drove in and stopped to visit **Mary Van de Weghe**. It had been over a month ago that Nancy had reminded me that Mary's anniversary had just passed -- It was back in 1993 -- on January 27th --

that we had lost Mary to cancer. It sounds so long ago when I realize that it was over 23 years ago. But it seems like only yesterday at times.

And I would be hugely remiss if I were to not remember to mention the anniversary of **Sharon Burke's** passing. Sharon died suddenly five years ago on February 26th. This was another of those anniversaries that neither Nancy nor I could believe was already so long back. We actually had to get out the little memorial card we got at the funeral home to prove it to ourselves. Sharon was a long-term member of NNJR along with her family -- husband, **Jeffrey**, and their son, **Kenneth**. Sharon is thought of often and is also very much missed. She volunteered in several areas at the track as well as being a competitor in Solo.

Five years ago Jeffrey had asked me to say a few words at the service for Sharon. I found a poem written by a young freedom fighter who lost her life during WWII, a girl named Hannah Senesh. Her lovely little poem bears repeating as we remember the folks above.

There are stars up above,  
    so far away we only see their light  
        long, long after the star itself is gone.  
And so it is with people that we loved --  
    their memories keep shining ever brightly  
        though their time with us is done.  
But the stars that light up the darkest night,  
    these are the lights that guide us.  
        As we live our days, these are the ways to remember.

Movin' along.... Learned that Big **Joe Russell** got himself a new vehicle. His new buggy is a brand-new silver Ford van, and it's replaced the old white bus that Joe used not only as a grocery-getter, but also to transport his butt to the track and as the "Villa Russell Motel" when he spent weekends at the track. It's a great looking van!.... or, at least it was pretty darn sharp-looking until Joe failed to stop quickly enough at a traffic light. Joe's new Ford van tried to insert itself into the vehicle ahead of it. That car had already stopped for the traffic light. Oh, well. Doo-doo happens.

And out in the west, the CEO of **SCCA Enterprises** located in Centennial, Colorado, tendered his resignation in February. SCCA Enterprises is one of the wholly-owned subsidiaries of our club. **Erik Skirmants** had been Enterprises honcho for over ten years. Eric will be assuming the position of CEO for the EXR Racing Series which is located in Las Vegas. SCCA Enterprises is the business which since 1984 has designed, developed and produced the several Enterprises race cars including the original Spec Renault and its successors, the SRF racers, plus the new Formula Enterprises cars.

About two weeks later, SCCA CEO, **Lisa Noble** announced the selection of **Robey Clark** as the new President and CEO of SCCA Enterprises. Mr. Clark, a twenty year member of SCCA and himself a racer of the Spec Racer Ford car, as well as its predecessor, the Sport Renault, will replace Skirmants.

With a history in racing Spec Racer Fords and Sport Renaults, as well as involvement as both a Sports Car Club of America Region Race Chairman and member of a Majors Tour Division Race Committee, Robey Clark has the experience and passion to care for the Spec Racer Ford

community. That is why he has been named the new SCCA Enterprises President and CEO, replacing Erik. Clark has an extensive business background and is expected to move from Texas to the Centennial area. Former SCCA director, **Jerry Wannarka** who is now the Board Chairman for SCCA Enterprises, stated that Clark's "...many years as a Spec Racer Ford driver and Regional Competition Director give him the unique background to continue the great traditions at Enterprises."

A news release from SCCA earlier this month announces that SCCA's **2017 National Convention** will again be in Las Vegas at the Southpoint Hotel and Casino. It will be on January 19 thru 21. This is the same hotel where the 2016 convention was held from January



21 through 23 this year. I'm not a Vegas type gambler -- if I were to put a nickel in a slot machine, it would more likely be to observe the workings and watch the operation to see / figure out what makes it work, than as an attempt to win a prize. But Las Vegas is not far from some very scenic areas out in that neck o' the woods. Hoover Dam, the Colorado River, Lake Mead, the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, and a whole bunch of other scenic and interesting places.

So, if you're interested, start making plans. The news release states that more information about the convention will be forthcoming.

And it appears that Formula 1 Race Director **Charlie Whiting** has said that the newly repaved **Watkins Glen** circuit would be a "wonderful" track for GP cars to race on following a recent track inspection. It has been many years since a **USGP** was held at Watkins Glen (1980), and there is precedent for the US to have two Grands Prix in the same season -- beginning in 1976 when there was a GP West in the Los Angeles area and in several years thereafter. While our US Grand Prix has a nice, new venue out in Austin, Texas at the **Circuit of the Americas** track, the United States is such a large nation that it would not be inappropriate to celebrate two Grands Prix events here. Let's see what happens....



Mark your calendars! There has been much confusion regarding our NNJR calendar so far this year. Of course, that's not as unusual as it sounds, since the early part of our regional calendar each year is often rife with adjustments as things get squared away with other region's dates and the like. The **2016 Northern New Jersey Region Party** will be held on April 17th, from three pm until six pm at the **Wyndham Hamilton Conference Center**, located at 175 Park Ave, Florham Park, NJ 07932. This is the same location where NNJ hosted the Spring RoundTable a few years ago and also where our hosting of the fall Mini-Con will be in November. There should be more info at the Region's website -- click "Members" and then click "NNJR Full Calendar."

See yas at the next Board of Trustees Meeting!