



HUBER'S HASH for DECEMBER 2016

by **Walter Huber**

Okay -- okay.... Even if you backspace and try to find where my May, June, July, August, September, October and November **HASH** columns went, you simply won't find them. I've been otherwise occupied in the last couple months. I haven't been writing my usual column for the old *Pole Cat* newsletter since way back in April.

Nancy & I have been busy for several months with the sale of our former home in Kinnelon. Plus there has been a medical issue or two in our lives during that time interval. And some other "stuff" too. It all added up to me not sitting down at the computer and typing my monthly report for the last seven months. But hopefully that "stuff" is all in our rear-view mirrors now and we can get back in gear and drive forward. That said, here's some "HASH" for y'all to chew on....

Besides not getting our local NNJR news out to the gang, my indolence kept us away from all SCCA competition events this past summer. Since the 1984 season when Nancy & I met at Lime Rock, we have been very actively and constantly involved in our Region and the SCCA Club activities overall. But for 2016, our events scorecard is a big zip. Not even one. Nothing. *Nichts. Nada. Rien. Niente.* 何も. (That last one is Japanese. Pronounced something like "San-ee-maw")

But much has been happening in our corner of our SCCA world none-the-less. Let me try to catch up. Back last April I had just started some medical treatments to correct a negative situation which the doctors had found in me. Those treatments made me extremely sluggish and they lasted until early July. While I am still sluggish, the radiation appears to have worked and the docs are telling me that the medical problem is improved now -- let's hope it lasts.

During the treatment period, something interesting occurred early in May. I had been heading to a medical facility in Whippany New Jersey every day for the treatments. And I'm sitting in the waiting room wearing my **USS Somerset** hat -- the hat which was given to me by the folks who were able to attend the ship's commissioning in March of 2014; the ship named in tribute for the county in Pennsylvania where **United 93** was taken to the ground on 9/11; the plane on which our NNJR members, **Joe DeLuca & Linda Gronlund** were killed. Another patient is wearing a USA Veteran's cap and he addresses me about my hat.

When I explain to this fellow that I wear it in remembrance of friends who were lost in the crash of United 93, he says he knew someone on the plane also. I asked him the name of the person he knew -- and he responds, "Joe DeLuca!"

Well, it turns out that this fellow had worked with Joe at Warner-Lambert (later Pfizer Pharmaceuticals) in Morris Plains and at one point he was Joe's supervisor in fact. Damn! It's such a small world!

Our Kinnelon house went on the market in June. One buyer was looking good until they couldn't get approved for the FHA mortgage they needed. And now we are under contract to sell the

house to a couple with a growing family who are anxious to move into Kinnelon because of the excellent schools system.

Nancy is doing well -- all things considered. Her stroke three years ago affected her eyesight. She has given up her driver's license due to her double vision. And she no longer uses the "granny walker." She uses a cane. But she is hugely improved over the situation of three years back when she was in Morristown Memorial Hospital for three weeks (two of them in the ICU), followed by several months in rehab places. We thank our Lord multiple times a day!



Our NNJ Region lost a couple folks recently. **Kjell Skavnes** had been a member since 1981 and had recently celebrated his 35 year anniversary as a member. Kjell died on June 29 after battling Parkinson's for a number of years. He lived in Rockaway Township. He had been the owner of the Reinertsen Motors SAAB dealership in Denville. Kjell raced for many years. He had also been a Trustee of our Region about 25 years ago. Born in Norway, "KJ" loved skiing, and he loved helping blind and visually-impaired kids learn to ski through a "Ski for Light" group. He also was fond of fishing off the Florida Keys where he spent his winters. He is survived by his son, **Kristian** and three grandkids.

Also in June our Region lost long-time member **Jack Keller**. Jack was a life-member of the SCCA who had joined in 1962. He was 78 when he passed on June 26th. He had joined SCCA in 1962. Jack was a strong and aggressive racer. He lived in Bayville down along the Jersey shore and owned the Manahawkin Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealership in Stafford Township, NJ.



In October we learned of the passing of **Boris Kwaloff**. He died on October 29th, exactly one week shy of celebrating his 98th birthday. He was an accountant for over 75 years and lived in Montclair. Boris loved Mini-Coopers and had raced at Lime Rock and the old Bridgehampton track on Long Island. He was a jazz aficionado and an excellent story-teller. He had joined our Region & SCCA 57 years earlier, back in 1959. Boris was a friend to all who knew him.

Fred Opert died on August 9th. Though no longer a member, Fred had been active in the 1960s & '70s. He had lived in Ramsey and been active in various aspects of the racing game. The obit said he had been the owner of various racing teams and had raced on four different continents.

In August, **Janet Taylor**, wife of Jim Taylor, passed away. Janet invariably accompanied JT to the track and would help if the region needed Flaggers. Her preference, however, seemed to be helping as a Recorder in Control. A memorial service was held in September at the Taylor family's church in Phoenixville, PA.



Sean O'Connor, husband of Ellen, son of **Diane & Butch O'Connor** and father of Rosie, Jude & Henry, ran in the New York Marathon on November 6th. Out of the over fifty-thousand runners participating in the race, Sean crossed the finish line in 3945th place with a time of 3:27:32. Quite an accomplishment, I'd say!

Sean was a NNJR member -- a Track Brat -- on his parents' family membership and continued his membership for a number of years thereafter. He completed a drivers school and earned a competition license, but his energies (as well as wife, Ellen's) are now expended chasing after their three very energetic kids! Way to go, Sean!

And I might also mention that another runner in the marathon was Gordon Felt, brother of Flight 93 passenger, Edward Felt. Gordon is the president of the **Families of Flight 93**. He finished in 24,154th place in just under 4½ hours. In prior years, and possibly this year as well, there have been a number of others in the marathon who have had strong ties to the folks lost on Flight 93.



Our Northern New Jersey Region hosted the **2016 North-East Division Mini-Convention** at the Wyndham Hotel in Florham Park on the weekend of November 11-12. SCCA folks from various regions in the North-East Division came together for a few days to discuss the season just past, to plan dates for the 2017 season, to train in the skills we use in conducting our competitions, to recognize & award champions and volunteers' outstanding service, and to enjoy friendships and conviviality. Several national office staff members came east to attend and conduct some sessions. And all three current SCCA Board of Directors from the NorthEast Division were at the Mini-Con as well as at least three of the former Directors from NE-Div. All these "Big Guns" brought us up-to-date and kept us current with the goin's on out there in Topeka-land. A good time was had by all who attended.

Linda Santangelo, our regional "**Hostess With the Mostess**" handled all the details and the result was a great Mini-Con which all the attendees enjoyed. Our Saturday evening **Awards Dinner**, where **Divisional NE-Series** race winners were recognized as well as NE-Div folks who had done well at the **Majors** races and at the **Runoffs**, had a "Happy Days" theme and folks came dressed in their best 1950s era togs. **Sandy & Ed Sanders** of the **Glen Region** took home a prize for their 1950s look.

Our Region held the one meeting which our by-laws require -- our **Annual Meeting** -- to elect the coming year's slate of officers & trustees on November 15th. The meeting was held at Brio's in Wayne. This year, the officer positions of **Assistant Regional Exec** and **Treasurer** were up for reelection along with two of the four **Trustee** positions. There were no additional Nominations by Petition this year and the election was therefore uncontested. In such a case our by-laws instruct that the Region Secretary cast one vote and the slate which has been proposed by the Nominating Committee is elected. Our Officers & Trustees for the coming year will be **RE: Brandon Fetch, Ass't. RE: Butch O'Connor, Sec: Larry Malone, Treasurer: Jason Evangelista, and Trustees: Mark Labbanz, Chris Mosley, Matt Rooke & Peter Schneider.**

Although attendance at the Annual Meeting was minimal, the food was good, the beverages were nicely chilled, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our Region's **Flag Marshal, Bruce Kolker**, won the prize for "travelled furthest" having driven two hours from Connecticut to attend. But because he also had a return trip of another two hours travel time to get back home to Connecticut, he didn't stick around long enough to collect the \$100 prize for the "Most Distant Member Attending," so the money was returned to the Region's treasury.

There was also some recent election news out of Topeka. We learned the results of the elections for several **SCCA Director** positions in the nearby NE-Div Areas. The Area Two (southern NJ, VA, MD, DE, DC, most of PA) election was won by **Jack Burrows** of the Washington DC Region. Jack defeated the incumbent, **Terry Hanushek**, who is a South Jersey member and very active at the events at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville. Jack will serve for three years. In the Area Ten election (most all of NY except for NYC), **Earl Hurlbut**, Finger Lakes Region, defeated **Jack Hanifan** of Mohawk-Hudson Region. The incumbent Director in Area Ten, **John Walsh**, could not run again, having served the maximum allowed, two consecutive terms (six years) as Director.

Recent issues of our SCCA magazine, "*SportsCar*," announced several significant anniversaries among our NNJR membership and also among some friends in nearby regions. In November, **Jerry Lustig** celebrated 55 years membership in NNJR and SCCA. Jerry is the principal behind a significant number of auto dealerships here in the north Jersey area. He also raced with the club for many, many years.

Anton Mallner celebrated his golden anniversary -- 50 years -- as an NNJR member recently. Congrats to both these gentlemen who have over a century of combined membership between them.

Peter Brohl and **Jim Taylor** both attained the 45 year SCCA membership mark back in May. There's over ninety years of Flagging experience residing in these two guys now, and we thank them for that service to our club.

And two friends of NNJR are also celebrating 50 years each in SCCA. **Gerald Wannarka**, formerly of the Washington DC Region and now with the Lone Star Region, was an SCCA Director from Area Two and also served as the SCCA Board Chairman some years back.

Also in the fifty year column is **Gary Pitts** who came up to Northern New Jersey almost forty years ago from the deep south -- Alabama as I recall. Gary met and married a NNJ Region girl, **Leslie Eisenberg**, and after Gary's work took them to several other parts of our nation, the

couple settled in the San Francisco Region and raised their family. Gary became an SCCA Director from the Northern Pacific - Area Nine -- somewhere about the 2002-03 timeframe and also served as SCCA Board Chairman for a period of time.

Our Region calendar -- on the home page of the NNJR website (www.scca-nnjr.com) -- says there's to be a "**Holiday Party & Board Meeting**" on Tuesday, December 13th. It's to be at Brio's in the Willowbrook Mall shopping complex in Wayne. That's the usual venue for BoT meetings, but it's kinda unusual to combine a BoT meeting with a holiday party. The date is the usual second Tuesday of the month when the NNJR Board of Trustees meetings are held. And if the calendar announcement is accurate, it appears that the holiday season will be celebrated at the meeting. Board of Trustees meetings are, of course, open to the membership, so why not come see what goes on, perhaps enjoy a dinner, and imbibe your choice of wine, or perhaps a beer or some other refreshment.

Our annual Northern New Jersey Region "**Workers' Party**" which has usually been conducted in mid-January will once again happen in the wintery month of January. After one year of delaying the party for a heap of weeks -- several months in fact -- it will be back at the **Packanack Lake Clubhouse in Wayne** where it's been held -- except for 2016 -- for several years. It's scheduled for **January 29th** and our Region will have a catered buffet table, will present the 2016 Solo Trophies, volunteer appreciation awards, fun & friendship -- all the good stuff which we've come to expect each year. Enjoy getting together with others in the SCCA when the weather isn't super hot as it usually is in the summer.

As I close, I want to again apologize for the seven month sabbatical which I took. But more importantly, I hope that everyone enjoyed a 'most thankful' Thanksgiving! And, as we turn the calendar page and up comes the month of December, I also want to extend sincere wishes to all our membership for a most Happy & Joyful Christmas, or Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, or Ramadan, or Omisoka, or Saturnalia, or whatever holiday you wish to celebrate -- as well as a Healthy & Happy New Year 2017. I hope Santa Claus finally brings everyone in the club that shiny new, exceptionally fast, smooth handling race car they've been asking the jolly old fat guy in the red suit to bring for how many years???