



HUBER'S HASH for JANUARY

by **Walter Huber**

Back again. And since this is the January issue, it means we're also starting off on a new SCCA year. Wishing you-all the very best of health and happiness for the entire new year and beyond. Let's hope that our competition seasons in 2016 will all be loaded with fun events which are fair to all -- and that they will all be conducted on days when the weather is the most appropriate for that type of event!

Thanks to **Matt Rooke** for getting my late December issue out to the membership in 2015 yet. It's been screwy -- and I'm not just saying that it's become screwy since this computer belched its guts back in October, but really going back to late August when **Nancy** & I embarked upon our move to our new (to us,,,) home in Lincoln Park. Ain't nothin' ever seems the same any more. But Matt got my December drivel into your hands (or wherever you receive your e-mail) on either the ultimate or the penultimate day of the olde year. And now it's up to me to get this newer column for January of 2016 off in a timely fashion.

So what's been happening? -- There's a bunch of news that's come to my attention. Let's see....

Northern New Jersey Region had our **Annual Dinner** back in November -- on Thursday the 19th. That's the one meeting each year which our by-laws say we've got to hold. And that meeting's purpose is not simply to have dinner & feed folks. It's required so that we can elect a couple of officers and some Trustees for the coming two years. In years ending with an odd number -- such as 2015 -- we elect our Regional Executive and our Secretary plus two Trustees. And in even numbered years, such as this 2016 year, we will elect the Assistant Reg'l Exec and the Treasurer plus the other two Trustees. Do the math: Yup -- there are eight folks who run our club. (But I ain't one of 'em. -- That's why I can throw stones and fling bricks when I'm not in agreement with something.)

I do try to attend our Region's **Board of Trustees Meetings** which are held once a month, generally on the second Tuesday of the month. I used to be on the BoT -- that was way back in the late '80s and into the first half of the '90s. But not no more. And just to be clear -- Board of Trustees' meetings are open to the membership -- You may also attend if you wish. And you don't have to have a burr in yer britches to attend. Members can attend a BoT meeting just to find out what's going on in our club. You can sit and listen; you can sit and voice an opinion. You just have no vote in any decision making. Or you can order some food or just sip on a beer (or two) as I do. Try it sometime.

I have previously reported on who was elected at the Annual Meeting in November. But no harm in repeating who is now in office. Our **Regional Executive is Brandon Fetch**. He and his wife **Melissa** moved here some years back from Texas I believe. Brandon races a Miata. Our **Assistant RE, Butch O'Connor**, continues in that position. Butch has been in the Region since the mid-'80s. His position will be up for renewal in this November's Annual Meeting's election.

And Butch also races -- sometimes a Miata, sometimes an IT car, and often an MG. The newly elected **Secretary** for our club is **JR Malone** who competes in Solo. And our continuing **Treasurer** is **Jason Evangelista**. Due to a resignation, there are currently only three **Trustees-at-Large** serving on the Board at this time -- **Matt Rooke, Chris Mosley and Peter Schneider**. The Board will likely appoint someone to fulfill the fourth Trustee position until election time (By-laws - Article VI Section 4). Okay... Enough of the recapping of the 2015 election. On to other stuff.

Philadelphia Region held their annual **Awards Dinner** in mid-January at the "**America on Wheels**" museum in Allentown, PA. And the recipient of their **Worker of the Year** award was **NNJR's own Jeffrey Burke**. At the Divisional Race event at Pocono which our region sponsored along with Philly back in August, Jeff stepped up to chief the Tech crew for the event when the scheduled Tech-Meister suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. Congrats to Jeff on receiving this recognition!

And, speaking of awards presentations, let me repeat something which was in my last column -- the one you got at the very end of December last year. Since our **NorthEast Division Council** has decided to no longer conduct a **Spring RoundTable** which was usually held in March, our Region has moved our **January Awards & Region Winter Party** from the former late January date to mid-March. It will again be held at the **Packanack Lake Clubhouse** in **Wayne**. Keep an eye on the Region's events schedule on the **www.scca-nnjr.com** website so that you don't miss that.



Still more Awards & Banquets stuff.... **South Jersey Region's** Dinner and Awards function will be coming up at the end of this month. It'll be held at the Wyndham Hotel located on Route 73 northbound in Mount Laurel. **Terri Zane** (**Registration@sjr-scca.org** or **609-784-5316**) is handling reservations. Cost is \$40 per person, date is the 30th, cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 7:00. More info can be found at **http://www.sjr-scca.org/about-sjr/76-2015-banquet-information**

I received word recently of the passing of New England Region member, **Dave Belden**. According to the obituary which I read, Dave appeared to have had two loves besides his family -- one of course was racing. The obit stated that at Brown University he majored in two fields. His degree was in History, but he also studied "contract bridge" so it would appear he liked that card game. Dave joined SCCA in 1962 and was a competitor in SCCA races for about 47 years. In recent years he had been racing with the Vintage Sports Car Club of America in his vintage Lotus. Our region's sympathy goes out to Dave's wife **Alice** and to his family.

Long-time member, racer, volunteer **Doug Case** lost his father earlier in January. Albert R. "Casey" Case, was 90. He had been in the US Army Air Force during World War II and had subsequently been a Major in the US Air Force Reserve. He had been a banker in Sussex County

and was also active in several business organizations as well as holding lifetime membership in the Frankford Township Fire Department. The Region's sympathy is extended to Doug and his wife **Carol**, to grandson **Spencer**, and to all the members of the Case family.

The February issue of "**SportsCar**" arrived in the mails already. One of the first places I always look when a new issue arrives is the Membership Anniversaries. And once again there were several Northern New Jersey members celebrating significant anniversaries -- **Joe Doyle** and **Paul Paparella** are coming up on 30 years as SCCA members in February. **Bruce Bellom** and **J. Mark Wendling** will be celebrating a quarter century each next month. Congratulations to all these gents for these noteworthy membership milestones.

At the January Board of Trustees meeting, our Rally guru, **Peter Schneider**, announced a fun, social Rally which he will schedule for the springtime. I believe the expected date will be Sunday, April 17th. That should be fun -- a springtime rally with budding trees and flowers will be most enjoyable. Keep looking at the Region calendar to find out when the final date is published exactly -- and of course, I will be giving a "Heads Up" in my column as well.

I expect that the **SCCA's National Convention** will be happening at the **South Point Hotel & Casino** in **Las Vegas**, Nevada, just about the time that this gets into your hands -- January 21st - 23rd. We should get more of a report on information coming out of the National Convention in the February report from our Regional Executive, Brandon, and other Region members who may attend. Let's hope they don't spend all their time at the casino's gaming tables.

Just one other scheduling item before I close. And if you ain't got grey hair or have age-related baldness, you may not know or recall the honoree. **Gordon MacKenzie** was a racer of some note going back a bunch of years. He drove primarily back in the fifties and into the sixties, most often in a Jaguar C-type. Lime Rock, the Glen, Thompson in this area and frequently at Sebring for the 12-Hour event each Spring. Gordie's now retired and lives in a retirement community up around Lime Rock. He's going to turn ninety next month. And some of his friends in the VSCCA and the racing fraternity in general are going to celebrate with him at his favorite restaurant, the Amenia Steakhouse in Amenia, NY, on Sunday, February 21st at 3:00 pm. For more info call Terry Dunne at 860-248-1799.

And hold open the first or second weekend of November -- Actually, hold 'em both until you get the official word on which weekend our **NNJ Region** will be hosting the end-of-season fall **NorthEast-Division Mini-Con** this year. Plans are already under weigh for the Mini-Con and this was under discussion at the Board of Trustees meeting on January 12th. When NNJ hosted one of these NE-Div conferences a few years back, it was at the Hamilton Park Hotel in Florham Park, near where the Jets' practice field and Morristown Airport are located. NNJR Trustees are looking at scheduling the Mini-Con at this same hotel again -- now called a Wyndham hotel. Stay tuned....