



HUBER'S HASH

for

JANUARY, 2017

by **Walter Huber**

Wow! It's January already! And, as always happens -- January comes with a "new year"! Poof! It's already twenty-seventeen ! Again, I say "Wow!"

Hope your holiday season was pleasant and enjoyable. And best wishes to you for a healthy & happy 2017 !

I'm not a lover of the colder months. While I know there are many folks who enjoy skiing or ice skating and/or those other outdoor wintertime activities, I just ain't among that group. Admittedly, when I was younger (much younger!) I enjoyed the winter months and the snow. Way back when, I liked sledding, making a snowman, having a snowball fight, et cetera. And when I first got my driver's license, on a snowy winters night, my friends and I would get in our cars and go to an empty corporate parking lot and slide our cars all around. Great fun!

But nowadays, if I were to never see another snowflake fall outside our home, if I never again have to lift & throw another shovelful of snow, I would enjoy that immensely. So, if we can scoot through this month and February quickly, my joy will increase as the weather becomes warmer and we get into March and April! Unfortunately, I suspect -- given the history of northern New Jersey's weather and recent trends in our weather -- that the cold & wintery outlook is only beginning.

Nancy isn't a fan of the cold weather either. I'm thinking that perhaps next year -- after Christmas of 2017 is in the record books -- we may climb aboard the motorhome and head south for a month or two. We did that some nine years ago in '08 and really enjoyed our stay in the Raleigh & Chapel Hill area of North Carolina.

Of course, back then, a couple of our grandkids (and those big kids who live in the same home with the grandkids) were living near to where we parked the motorhome at the Spring Hill RV Park in Chapel Hill. Unfortunately, that whole gang has moved back to Virginia, so we wouldn't be near any of our grandkids while

enjoying our stay in North Carolina (except that they come & visit us there). But we have other family members in the North Carolina area, as well as some Yankee transplants who are SCCA friends and live down there in that Rebel secessionist territory.

Gotta tell yas about something which happened to our daughter, Tracy, in the week leading up to Christmas. Tracy is a single Mom who is raising her twin sons with minimal help from her ex-husband. Cole and Tyler are eight years old and both boys are on the autism spectrum. It's been rough on Tracy, but she is an excellent Mom to her boys. In early December, one of the twins had undergone a small medical procedure. And a week and a half before Christmas, Tracy herself had a medical procedure.

As I said, things were not going smoothly as Tracy approached the holidays. She was thinking that it was not going to be a very joyful Christmas. But on getting home one afternoon, she found two large boxes on her doorstep. No shipping labels on either box.



Just a notation saying: "Cole & Tyler -- Love, Santa." Inside were a bunch of wrapped presents for the boys. As Tracy herself said: "I have no idea who left them but whoever did has brought some cheer and happiness to my year. All I can say is if you try to do your best and not be selfish and be as nice as you can to people, Karma comes back to you. It's one of the nicest things someone has done for us and I appreciate it more than words can say. It's a little Christmas miracle and makes me believe there's really good people out there."

The **NNJR Board of Trustees meeting** in December had been listed on the NNJR website as being a "Holiday Party & Board Meeting." I don't know who put that on the website using those words, but don't worry -- you didn't miss a party. The meeting was only a regular working Board of Trustees Meeting with five members and myself attending -- the usual gang. I commented on the unusual descriptive wording in last month's HASH and the reference to the meeting also being a 'party' was -- as I had suspected -- a gag.

But I don't want to leave the impression that Board of Trustees meetings are closed sessions. BoT meetings are open to the membership and it would be nice if a larger portion of our membership showed a greater interest in our club's goings-on.

The January BoT meeting was on Tuesday, **January 10th**, at **Brio's** Restaurant in the Willowbrook Mall in Wayne. It was a regular meeting and all the aspects of our Region's competition areas were discussed. Race discussion revolved around our Majors race at Pocono in May. Solo discussion centered on the need for new and replacement equipment. Rally addressed the upcoming events being planned for the 2017 season.

The **February BoT meeting** will be changed from its normal "second Tuesday" of the month to take it off Valentine's Day which falls on Tuesday the 14th this year. Why not come by and see what makes our club tick? Things try to get underway at around 7:30, but it's okay if you get there earlier or are late. Just mention "NNJR" or "Sports Car Club" to the hostess and she'll get you to the small room they reserve for our NNJ meetings. Perhaps we will see you there on **Wednesday the 15th**.

However, there will be an NNJR party in January. Our Region's traditional annual "**Workers' Party**" where the **Solo Awards** for the prior season's events are presented and recognition is made to the **Chiefs of Specialty** and the **Volunteers** in each category, will take place on **January 29th**. Last year, despite having scheduled a January 2016 date with the Packanack Lake folks in early 2015, our date was given to a local Wayne organization and we were relegated to finding another venue and holding our event several months later. This confusion is not expected to reoccur, so we expect to see y'all in 2017 on Sunday, Jan 29th at the **Packanack Lake Clubhouse** in Wayne.

On the evening prior to our NNJR Workers' Shindig, the **South Jersey Region** will conduct their annual **Awards Dinner** function.

It's always a nice banquet and even though the South Jersey folks decided a few years back that they no longer needed NNJ's help to put on their races, it is a function worth attending. As mentioned, it will be held on the evening before our date, on Saturday the 28th.

Our rally guru, **Peter Schneider**, planned & conducted the Region's annual "**Teddy Bear Rally**" back on December 4th. This event has been a regular on the NNJR calendar for over a quarter century now. It's the longest continuously held rally on the NE-Div calendar. Rally results for the 2016 event are on the NNJR website. It's nice that our SCCA gang does this and helps the "**Marine Corps' Toys for Tots**" charity at this special time of year.

Membership anniversaries! The February issue of "*SportsCar*" magazine lists three NNJR folks who are celebrating significant



membership anniversaries in the month of January 2017.

Frank Sanchez is celebrating 45 years as a member of SCCA. His region of record is South Jersey but he has been a dual member in NNJR for a bunch of years. Frank has been racing for many moons and we usually see him at Pocono. Frank and his wife, Tina, live in Delaware.



Cory Vandeweghe is celebrating 35 years as a member of NNJR and SCCA. Cory started his SCCA career as a Flagger and later got into the driver's seat and began racing. He now lives in Erial, New Jersey which is in Gloucester County close to New Jersey Motorsports Park.

Another **Vandeweghe** sibling celebrating 35 years as a member is brother **Alan**. (They must've joined together!) Alan and his wife, Diane, live in Ramsey. Alan also began as a Flagger before getting his competition license some years back.



Cory and Alan are only two of the four Vandeweghe brothers and they have 70 years membership in NNJR & SCCA.

When you add in the tenure of the other two brothers, **Scott** and **Todd**, the total years of Vandeweghe membership soars to 151 . (And I don't even want to begin adding in their wives' years with the club.)

I recently was looking at last October's copy of *SportsCar* magazine which came out during the months while I was not penning my monthly report on NNJR happenings. There were a couple of significant anniversaries which were not announced here in my column.

Cheryl Kaiser marked her 30th year with NNJR & SCCA. Cheryl has been a Registrar, worked Pit & Grid, and Race Control. The Kaisers live in Scott Township, Pennsylvania.



Suzanne Kolker celebrated her 35th anniversary as a member back in September. She's been a Flagger for those many years and before. She now frequently works Race Control. Suzanne & hubby, Bruce, live in Trumbull, Connecticut.

Last item.... Another 'party' of significance to NNJR on the January calendar will be the **SCCA's National Convention**. Once again it will be in Las Vegas at the **South Point Hotel & Casino** from **Thursday, January 19th thru Saturday, the 21st**. Several NNJR folks will be going. RE **Brandon Fetch** will be there to represent us. **Peter Schneider, Mark Labbancz** and **Chris Mosley** from our **NNJR Board of Trustees** are registered. Peter will be taking a seat on the **Road Rally Board** to which he has recently been appointed. And, of course, our **Area One Director, NNJR's Bob Dowie** will be there.