

SportTalk

2020 Annual Yearbook for the New England Region, SCCA



COVID-19: A
PANDEMIC HITS

RACING UNDER
THE LIGHTS

RALLYX: 508INTL

A 14 YO MAKES
A NAME FOR
HIMSELF

LOOKING BACK: 50
YEARS OF HISTORY
AND A 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

REGION AWARDS

DONATIONS

2020 was a tough year. In many respects. It went beyond the healthcare concerns of a pandemic, which effected many in our club personally, to the financial and emotional strains of the stay-at-home orders. For many, the opportunity to have some sense of normalcy at the track was a welcome escape and reprieve.

But while some suffered, the generosity of our members also shone through. This year, our region was blessed with two very generous donations.

Abhi Ghatak and **Jen Ferreira**, STL and SRF drivers respectively, heard the flaggers were in need of hand protection when responding to incidents on track. At the Pig Roast event in September, they donated 25 pairs of SFI-rated gloves to the volunteers.

With an eye toward recruiting new workers, and especially young people, to get involved with the Road Racing program, **Miguel Aponte-Rios** of AR Racing, donated \$1500 to create a sponsorship to cover membership dues and fees for new members. Any new member that volunteers to work two road racing events will receive a \$50 sponsorship applied to their membership dues. For those aged 18-25, that covers the entire cost of a First Gear membership, making it free for them to join SCCA.

As a club founded on volunteerism, these NER members are an example of the dedication that can be found in our ranks to give back, improve the quality of our racing programs, and provide opportunities for others to get involved in the sports we all love so much.

Thank you to Miguel, Abhi and Jen for your donations!





NEFV CHAMPIONSHIP

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Advantage Motorsports
Quixote Racing
Revolution Formula Cars
Hoosier Tire East
Penske Racing Shocks

Thank You

2020

Sponsors

2021 NEFV Schedule

May 15-16 NHMS	Granite State Regional
June 11-12 Lime Rock Park	Paddock Crawl
Aug 7-8 NHMS	Paul FaFord VeeFest, RAL, & OWDE
Aug 21 Thompson	Midnight Madness (Bonus)
Sep 11-12 Palmer	Pig Roast
Oct 1-2 Thompson	Championship Weekend

NER MERCHANDISE

NER offers members a variety of region and national club merchandise available to order. For the coming 2021 season, new SCCA patches are required for all club racing driver suits. These can be ordered through Donna Stevens. The "Region Merchandise Order Form" is available on the PitTalk.org website, under Region Info.

Check out all the patches, decals, apparel and lapel pins that are available.



**According to the 2020 SCCA Road Racing General Competition Rules:
Under Section 9 Cars and Equipment - 9.3.29 C. SCCA Logo**

*Each driver's suit shall display one of the official SCCA patch as shown (black or white).
It is preferred that the logo be placed on the upper right side of the driver's suit.
The new patch is required as of January 1, 2021.*

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Many of the images in this issue of Pit Talk are courtesy of the volunteers and professional photographers that donate their work for our use and enjoyment. We want to thank all of these amazing photographers and ask that the region continue to support their services when looking for photo images.

The Cover Photo is courtesy of **Clarus Studios** showcasing the night race at Thompson Speedway.

Please also thank **DaggerSLADE Media**, **Aaron Andino Photography**, **James and Rochelle Ray**, **Alex Jackson**, **Ian Poulot**, **Jacob Ronald**, and **PuckStopper Photography**.



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FROM THE REGIONAL EXEC

Welcome to the 2020 Pit Talk Annual Yearbook!

Hello, I am **Abhi Ghatak**, your new Regional Executive for the New England Region. I will be taking over from **Rich Currey**, our outgoing RE.

While my involvement in the club has mostly been with road racing, I started out in motorsports with rallying and many years of karting at the national level.

2020 was a difficult year for our country, our club and racing in general. We had to cancel events across most of our programs, or had to limit participants based on COVID restrictions. In spite of this challenge, our BOD and our many volunteers made the year a success financially and were able to hold events with restrictions.

2021 promises to be a better year for our club. Road Racing has a full schedule with eight race weekends scheduled. We will also have a new driver's school on April 24th at Thompson Speedway. Rally Cross, Rally Sprint have announced their schedules, but we continue to be limited on headcount at the events by COVID restrictions. Road Rally has announced their schedule as well. This is a great way to interact with club members in a safe socially distanced environment.

Lastly, our autocross program will continue to run at Devens, while the Site Acquisition Committee continues to look for alternative sites as a backup. One exciting piece of news here, our Solo program chair is working towards making the New England region a pilot region to implement the new and improved Junior Drivers program.

I look forward to serving the club as your new RE. Please reach out to me with questions, concerns and comments. The RE email is still the same, regionalexec@ner.org.



RACING IN A PANDEMIC

COVID-19 Throws a Black Flag on Racing

Heading into March of 2020, racers from all programs were prepping cars and readying for the coming race season. Then March 13th arrived and the world shut down. The onset of the novel coronavirus, Covid-19, brought racing across the country to a screeching halt as infections and deaths began to rise.

Here in the Northeast, Solo, Rally, and Club Racing events were cancelled. At both the regional and national level, SCCA hit a giant pause button. At first, everyone assumed it would be a temporary 2-3 week hiatus, at which time we could return to racing as usual. Sadly, racing as usual would not be what we experienced for the rest of the year.

Finding a Way Back

After four months of shut downs, as we entered into the summer, the club began to reinstate certain events. Whether an event could run was dependent upon many factors. This included state guidelines and requirements, the number of participants, and whether social distancing, sanitizing and safety precautions could be implemented effectively.

The first NER road race and Solo event resumed in July, with Rally hosting events later in the summer. The shortened season required adjustments for each series. Club racing adjusted the NERRC rules, held points events, and named Champions in October. Both Solo and Rally opted to suspend points events for the year.

A New Way to Race

With the necessary adjustments required to safely host events, drivers, crew, workers and track staff all had to adapt to the new Covid environment. Everyone wore masks, sanitizing equipment was on flagging stations, driver meetings were held virtually, and the usual post-event parties where we gathered at the end of the day became a memory for all of 2020.

To the credit of the region and its members, after four months of no racing, people were eager to comply with these new requirements in order to get back to the track. Many of our members chose not to return, opting to stay home and safe due to higher risk factors in their personal lives. While entries, particularly at the Solo level, were limited, and some rally tracks were unable to host events, racing became one way people could find some "normal" during a year dominated by a global pandemic. The region and program leaders worked tirelessly to find safe and effective ways to bring racing back. They are owed a world of thanks for their hard work during this time.

Key to the successful return of events was the outstanding communication from these leaders. Through emails, social media updates, Pit Talk

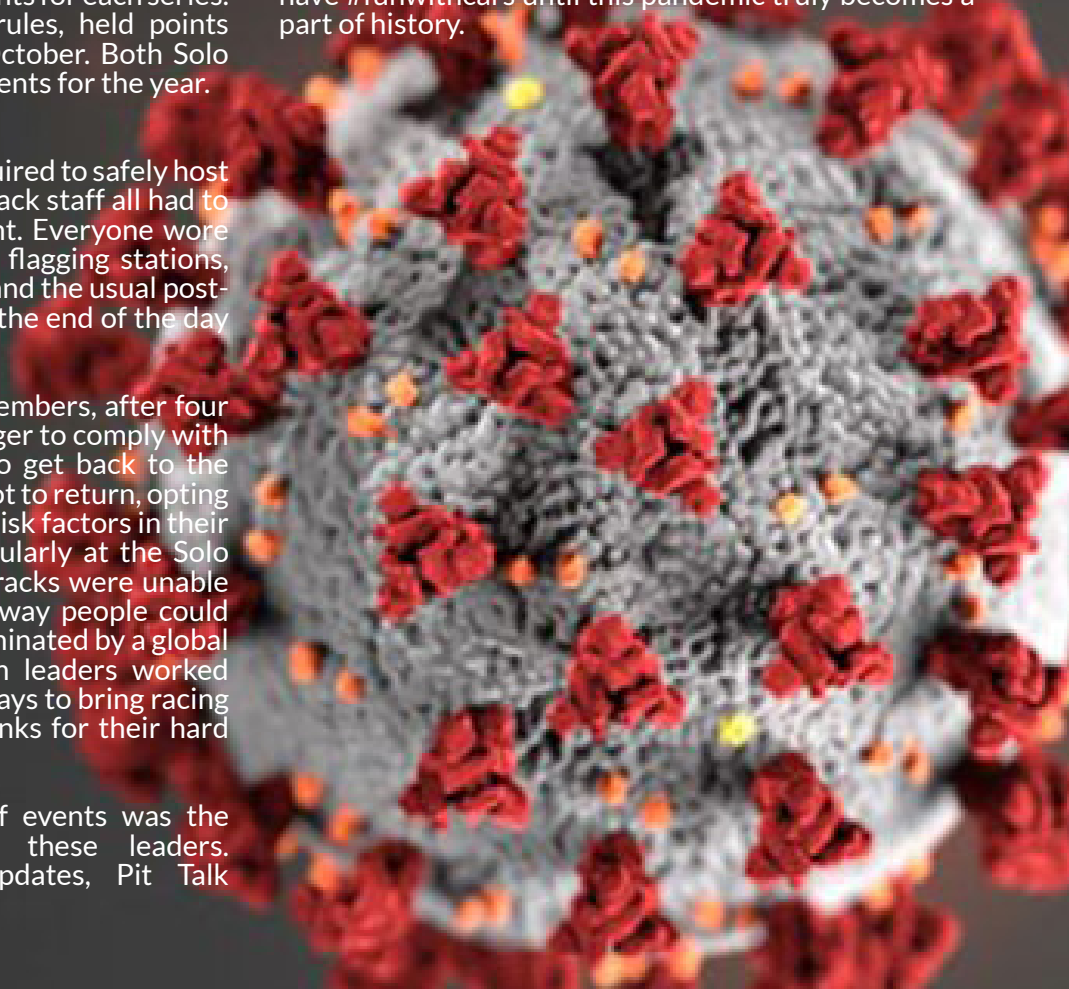
articles, changes to the supps, and any other way to get information out there, the region worked hard to ensure members knew what to expect and could plan accordingly. Feedback at the end of the year said this clear, consistent and detailed information sharing was key to our success.

NER Not Untouched

Sadly, our NER membership was not untouched by the ravages of this virus. Almost everyone knows someone who became infected, and we mourn those that were ultimately lost to us forever. NER Director Robert (Bob) Anderson was one of the first to succumb to the disease, and we were all devastated by this loss. As a region, we want to continue to offer our condolences to those members and their families that continue to battle the virus and grieve those lives taken too soon.

Moving into 2021

Even after almost a year has passed, Covid-19 is still a factor and impacting all aspects of life. The arrival of a vaccine has given us hope, but we expect many of the changes that were enacted at the end of last season will continue through this year as well. As a region, we adapted and survived, and we're confident that we will be able to continue offering our members a safe way to have #funwithcars until this pandemic truly becomes a part of history.



DIRECTORY

Club Leadership - Who to Contact

2021 NER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Regional Executive – Abhi Ghatak - regionalexec@ner.org
- Asst RE – Andrew Benagh - assistantre@ner.org
- Treasurer – Dick Patullo - patullo@verizon.net
- Secretary – George Farrar - gigfarrar@gmail.com
- Director – Gerry Papenhausen - grpapenhausen@yahoo.com
- Director – Jennifer Ferreira - jennferr00@gmail.com
- Director – Rich Currey - rcurrey@msn.com
- Director – Steve Introne - sintrone@yahoo.com
- Director – Paul Omichinski - pomichinski@icloud.com
- Director – James Ray - jbr.scca@rayfamily.com
- Director – Wiley Cox - wiley.cox@gmail.com



SPECIALTY AND PROGRAM CHAIRS

- Club Racing - JB Swan - jbswan@ner.org
- Autocross - Alex Jackson - Alex@ajturbo.com
- RallyCross - Scott Carlson - treemonkey1105@gmail.com
- Road Rally - Jon Lamkins - jon.lamkins@cox.net
- Social Media - Trevor Hermance - magicaltrevor2@gmail.com
- Volunteer Coordinator - Jessie Carroll - trackside@ner.org
- Time Trials Coordinator - Paul Omichinski - pomichinski@icloud.com
- CRE Chief Instruction - Peter Morrison - morrisonpeter47@gmail.com

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NER.ORG**

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PHOTOGRAPHY**
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ZOOM LIFE

NER Holds Virtual Annual Meeting

Prior to 2020, if you mentioned Zoom in racing circles, it probably brought images of Mazda marketing and ad campaigns. Zoom-Zoom! Little did anyone expect coming into the year, that Zoom would become a way of life for most of us.

With in-person gatherings, especially large ones, still not recommended anywhere in the country, the region directors decided that this year's Annual Meeting would need to be held virtually.

Virtual Town Halls

On Saturday, January 9, NER hosted four virtual Town Halls - one each for club racing, solo, rally, and time trials - and then a final business meeting, all using the Zoom platform. Members were able to log on via laptop or smart phone, or just call in and listen.

Similar to previous events, each Town Hall session discussed schedules, rule changes, and questions for the coming 2021 season.

Business Meeting

During the business meeting portion, the region welcomed SCCA President **Mike Cobb**, who gave a presentation on how the club from a national level

weathered the pandemic and it's goals and plans for the coming year. Member anniversaries, annual region awards, as well as committee and program reports were all presented.

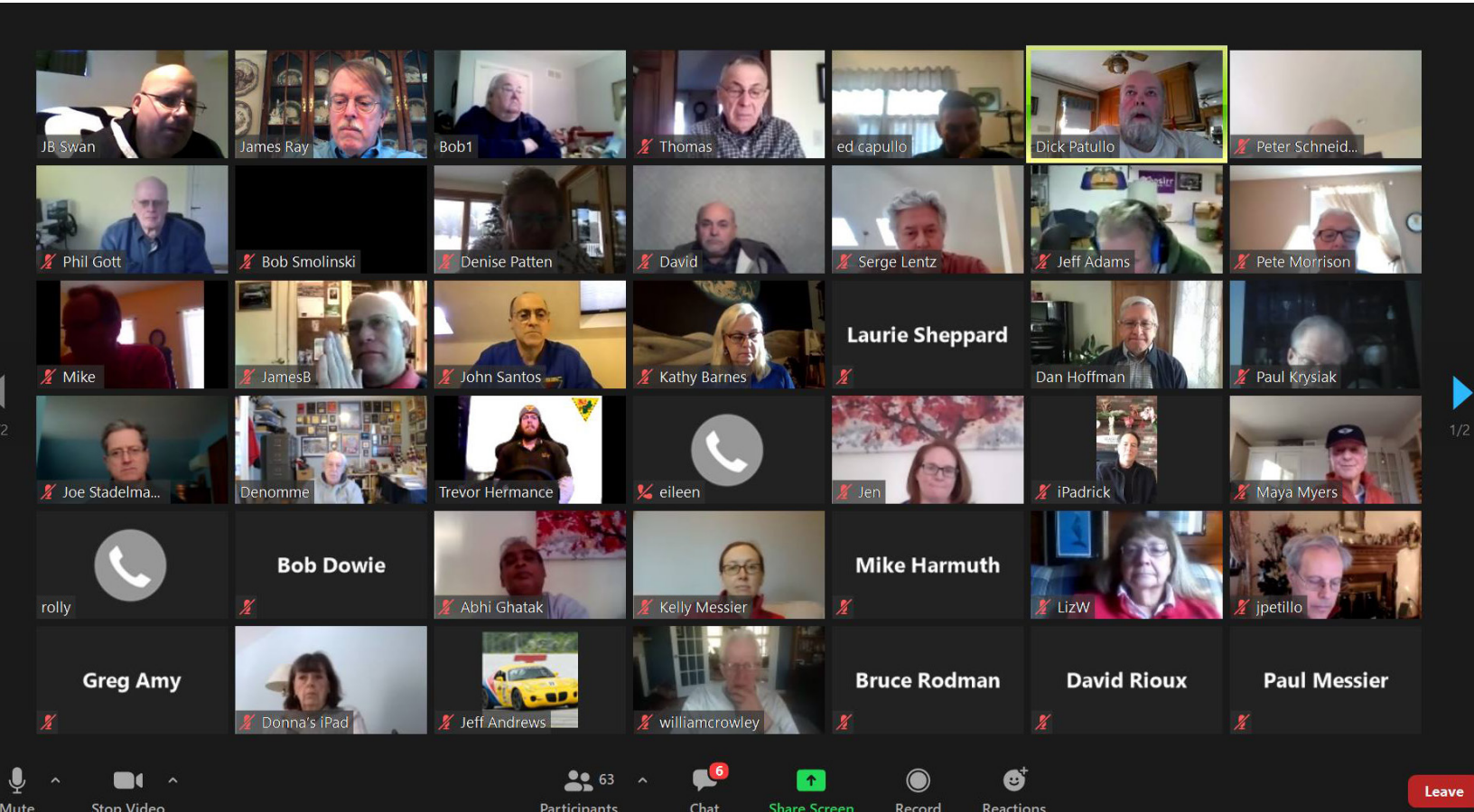
Lastly, the election of the new 2021 Board of Directors was confirmed, and the leadership for the coming year announced, with **Abhi Ghatak** stepping up as the RE and **Andrew Benagh** as Assistant RE.

Feedback

Immediate feedback from the membership was that the Zoom sessions were well organized and easy to access. Those looking to ask questions were able to be called upon.

In general, the state of the region is good and healthy. Our financials are strong, and we were able to safely organize and host events during the end of summer and into the fall.

Members regularly commented that the early and clear communication from each program and specialty helped make participation possible and keep everyone safe.



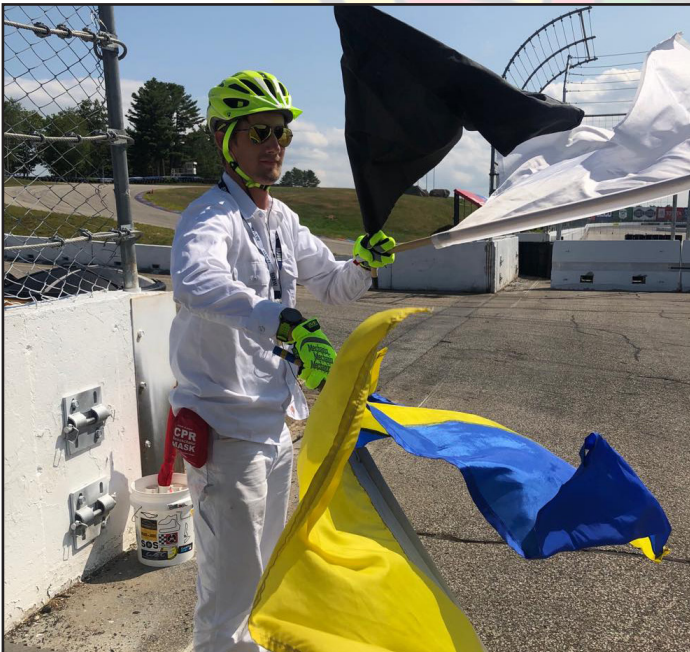
REGION AWARDS

Annual Award Recognitions

During the virtual Annual Meeting, the region presented four annual awards to recognize those members that go above and beyond in the previous year. Please join us in congratulating the following members on their honors. Each recipient took a moment to express what this recognition meant to them.

Andrew Benagh

RE Award

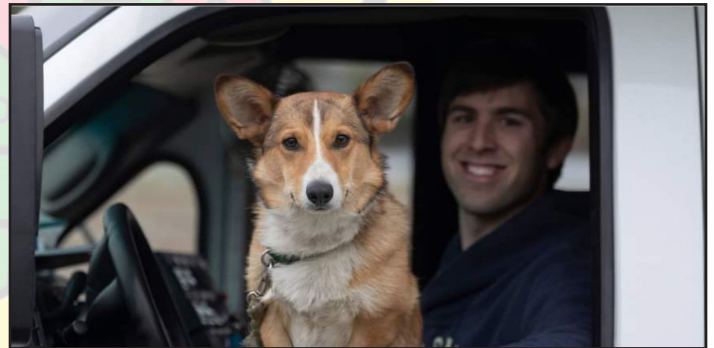


I feel very honored to have been considered for such a recognition by Rich at the conclusion of this crazy year. I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me and providing me with the introduction to the club. After 21 years with the club all of you have become my big extended family and I've enjoyed every minute of it. I continue to just remain speechless with appreciation for having won the award and am looking forward to the 2021 season.



Jacob Perkins

Assistant RE Award



It was such a lovely surprise to be presented with this award! Though, to be honest, I still feel like NER has given me more than I have ever returned. From the very beginning, just over a decade ago when I first showed up at a RallyCross, I've always loved this community and the path it has sent me along over the years - the unforgettable experiences and lifelong friendships that I treasure to this day. Even when my well-known health troubles surfaced, even when I was too ill and exhausted to race, the love and support from my friends in NER Rally gave me a reason to stay involved and keep coming to events, and to keep fighting and advocating for my health and mobility. The club itself gives me the means to race - but my friends, the unique and wonderful people that make up this club - organizers, volunteers, fellow racers (all three of which usually overlap, let's be honest!), you are the reason why I'm still mobile, still racing, and striving to live my best life. You are the reason why I never gave up. Thank you, I love you all.

Donna Stevens

Gold Pass Recipient (Two-Time Winner)

I am truly honored to receive the official Gold Pass awarded each year for recognition of an accomplishment for New England Region. It is even a greater honor to be among those past recipients who have made significant contributions to the club. To the New England Region Board of Directors - I thank you!



Josh Underwood MA & PA Philbrick Award

It's worth remembering that although the title of "worker of the year" is typically given only to one person, that person is but one of many who ensures that things run smoothly, and so it was with me. My grandfather, Bob Anderson, who received this award in 2015, brought me into SCCA nearly 20 years ago. Although COVID-19 took him from us before the season even started, I owe this award as much to him as I do to the many people who helped me run things this past year - including Denise Patten and Joe Boruch, who stood in for me when I could not be there; my stepfather (Bob's son), Jimmy, who made sure I could get to the races I could go to; and JB Swan, who made sure the equipment was able to get to the races I couldn't. Without them, and the many others who have consistently stood by me in my darkest hours, I would not deserve such an honor.



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2020 MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating Years of SCCA Membership

50 YEARS

Ron Bartell
Paul Capel
Linda Fanning
David Foote
Jane Goodale
Bill Goodale
Gordon Medenica
Ken Payson
Ron Pellman
Andre Quetel

25 YEARS

Matthew Baldoni
Travis Engen
Ademir Fedument
Nicholas Galuardi
Eli Garrett
Mike Jackson
Edward Karabec
Zachary Kelly
Robert Kilpatrick
Kelli Lamkins
Robert Lang
Kelly Lubash
Erin Meredith MacArthur
Peter Mahler
Jason Nolan
Raymond Pech
Maryanne Rhodes
Chris Riley
Damon Rummel
Stephen Sardelli
John Sebastian
Anthony Serra
Kristin Stadelmann
Ronald Sudol
Canio Tartaglia
Alex Tollefsen
Elise Tollefsen
Alison Turpin
Elizabeth Valley

10 YEARS

Carol Barlow
Jacques Bibault
Margaret Blethen
Stephanie Blethen
Madison Bolden
Matthew Cocuzzo
Zoey Faith Cranshaw
Brent DeWitt
Jason Fair
Diana Feghali
Gabriela Feghali
George Feghali
Isaac Gran
Melissa Gran
Wieslaw Gronek
Eric Heinrich
Jennifer Kimber
May Kimber
Phyllis Kurz
Diana Lamont-Taylor
Mark Long
Bryan Mancuso
Mario Mazza
Ann Marie McDonald
Lori Lee Myers
Lori Payson
Brian Pitts
Terry Price
Derek Sivret
Jennifer Sturgis
Robert Sturgis Jr
Glenn Taylor
Marc Ulan
Thomas West
JoAnn Wood
Cynthia Zahornasky
Laura Zahornasky
Nicole Zahornasky
Sarah Zahornasky

5 YEARS

Becky Adams
Sofia Alginina
Christopher Annibale
Jamie Aube
Eric Baker
Riley Baldoni
Richard Barger
Chris Barry
William Behrens
Johnathan Benagh
Daniel Bloom
Jennifer Brockman
Spencer Brockman
Ian Bundas
Ben Burness
Marco Calvo
Christopher Cangiano
Michael Chace
Lance Connolly
Kelly Connolly
Roger Cote
Brian Cunningham
Matthew Cwieka
Willis Vance Daugherty
Matthew Dodson
Christopher Dona
Michael Donnelly
Albert Elder
James Elder
James Elder
Jennifer Elder
Susan Fenwick
Henry Fontaine
Steve Garrone
Dylan Gonydyke
Nick Grewal
Kim Hapgood
Rebecca Harvey
Joseph Hayes
Anna Hayes
Heather Hayes
Isaac Hayes
Angela Hollenbeck
Lia Hollenbeck
Alexander Hollenbeck
Leah Honor
Eric Houlihan
Michael Jacques
Scott James
Elizabeth Jolly

ANNIVERSARIES

New England Region is honored to celebrate these anniversary milestones for SCCA membership. The longevity and dedication to the club through these years of commitment is part of what makes SCCA special. Congratulations members!

- Katelynn Kelly
- Thomas Kirchman
- David Kuchrawy
- Michael Kuchrawy
- Sara Kuchrawy
- Vincent Kuchrawy
- Daniel Malaquias
- Deborah Maynard
- Rick Mellin
- Jason Meyers
- Scott Monti
- Shaun Moore
- Victor Morando
- Mark Murphy
- Mathew Nieman
- Gerald Papenhausen
- Daniel Preston
- TJ Pullen
- John Reall
- Paul Restuccia
- Terry Riggs
- William Riggs
- Donnie Roberts
- Mark Sarcevicz
- Stephen Sarnecki
- Lorenzo Serra
- Morgan Sharinn
- Rhonda Sheehan
- Robert Shydo III
- Nathaniel David Sintros
- James Lee Sintros
- Barbara Kendall Sintros
- Zachary Slater
- Jeffrey Stuck
- Pratt Tanner
- Audra Tella
- William Tenca
- Konrad Testwuide
- Steve Tetreault
- Polina Tsurikova
- Joseph Zarlengo

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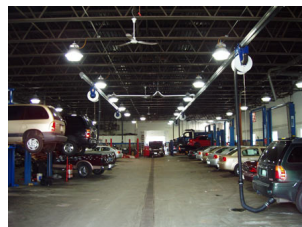
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ROAD RACING CHAMPIONS

Allen Briere - T3



Doug Valley - GT1



Nat Wentworth - ITB



Mark Kentenci - T1



Glen Kurkjian - GT2



George Farrar - AS



Stephen Blethen - T4



John Piscitelli - FV



The Club Racing Board (CRB) worked tirelessly with its team of chiefs and track managers to give the road racing community a competitive season while keeping drivers, crew and volunteer workers as safe as possible. In the end, the region hosted five NERRC points events, at all the usual tracks, with the exception of Lime Rock Park. Since LRP only has the single June date, with that event cancelled, it became the only track we could not host an event at for 2020. We were able to get on course at Thompson in July, August and October, NHMS in August, and Palmer in September.

With three events completely cancelled, the CRB announced rule changes for the year, requiring just 2 weekends to qualify, and the top 8 finishing points would be used to calculate the winners. Under those guidelines, these are the 2020 New England Road Racing Champions.

Lincoln Young - SRF3



Ron Coldon - FX



Photos by James Ray

AS

George Farrar

B-SPEC

David Oliveira

EP

Mike Frost

F5

Richard Johnson Jr.

FC

Douglas Rocco

FF

Edward Callo

FP

Peter Tonelli II

FV

John Piscitelli

FX

Ron Coldon

GT1

Doug Valley

GT2

Glen Kurkjian

GT3

Christopher Howard

GTL

Jorge Santos

HP

Fred White

IT7

Daniel Sheppard

ITA

David Colbey

ITB

Nat Wenworth

ITE

John Branscombe II

ITEZ

Michael Ruggiero

P2

Paul Omichinski

SM

Evan Karl

SM2

John Raudat

SPU

Joseph A. Boruch III

SRF

Mark Saviet

SRF3

Lincoln Young

SSM

John Santos

STL

Rob Sturgis

T1

Mark Kentenci

T2

Maurizio Cerasoli

T3

Allen Briere

T4

Stephen Blethen



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WORKER SPOTLIGHTS

One of the cornerstones for 2020 was how the volunteers and workers truly rose to the occasion in order to organize and facilitate events for the membership. It started from the top down. Leaders on each of the program boards worked directly with state and local agencies, as well as the management of the facilities we utilize, to fully understand the ever-changing guidelines and determine the necessary policies and procedures. From there, it took educating the boots on the ground that run events with clear communications on those expectations, and providing all of the necessary supplies to make it happen.

From registration upon arrival, to running timing systems, flagging and responding to cars, or even providing lunches and socially-distanced socials, everyone that volunteered in any capacity at a solo, rally or road racing event understood our SOP would need to adapt, and they all transitioned to make it work. The 2020 season would not have happened without the dedicated worker volunteers that made it so. For this, we thank them all!



JB Swan

Race Administrator of the Year

At the 2020 Runoffs, the SCCA Workers of the Year are announced. This year, we are excited that JB Swan was recognized for his role in Race Administration. From the national office, "His passion is evident at events where he's always on the move solving issues and making sure everyone has what they need. This year, COVID forced change. JB helped the Region come back to a successful, partial season with appropriate changes to event operations and format." From JB himself, "This was a total surprise. It is an honor to be nominated and chosen for the work that gets done in NER. I am humbled by this award. Thank you to all who nominated me."



NER GOES DARK

Club Racing Hosts First Night Race at Thompson Speedway Bringing 160 Cars Out Under the Lights

Last December, the Club Racing Board excited members with the announcement of a night race, under the lights, coming in 2020. The date was set for August at Thompson Speedway. It would be a one-day event - qualify during the day, then race at night. The track would host a test day the Friday beforehand, with a night session included. This allowed drivers a chance to get a feel for the new environment, and track officials to make any last minute adjustments to light poles or corner stations to ensure the safety and ease of operations.

After the delayed start to the season due to Covid, the August 22 night race remained on the schedule and proved to be one of the highlights for the club racing season. This one-day race drew 160 entries to the track.

Adapt and Adjust

If Covid taught us anything in 2020, it is how to adapt and adjust to constantly changing circumstances. This included making minor adjustments late into the night on Friday after the first test sessions. A few of the

portable track lights were moved to new locations, improving the illumination along the back half heading onto the front straight.

Additionally, drivers were advised to use their rain lights and add small running lights to either the roll bar or front fender, providing visual markers for those drivers ahead looking back in their mirrors.

It's Time to Race

Come Saturday morning, once again everyone was forced to adapt again. A logistical delay kept cars off course for over an hour past the originally scheduled start time. The domino effect of moving all the session times back resulted in cutting short the dinner break for workers, and the first green flag for racing not flying until after 8:00 pm.

But as the sun set across the track, the generators powering the lights turned on, and race engines revved. It was time to go night racing. Each group would have a 17-minute, plus 1-lap race.

Photo By Clarus Studios





Photos By PuckStopper Photography

The first group to take the track were the FVs and FFs. **Edward Callo** led his #44 FF out front, followed right behind with **John Piscitelli** in his #7 FV and the two of them stayed in the 1-2 positions for the duration. The second group was the smallest, as usual, with the wings and things tearing it up. **Paul Omichinski** took off and didn't look back in his #15 P2, running away with an easy win.

Around 9pm, one of the largest groups with over 35 IT and SM2 cars, made their way out onto the darkened racing surface. With only 2 cars not making it to the finish, these guys raced wheel-to-wheel around each turn in the dark. Group 4 was the big bore, and **Zack Kelly** showed up with his #30 T1 car to once again take the checkered flag with a 10-second lead over the next racer.

Moving later into the night, the clock hit 10pm before the Historic group took their turn, followed by Spec Racers and production cars. Two of the young SRF drivers battled back and forth at the late hour, with **Lincoln Young** in his #102 and **Evan Slater** in his #187 finishing just 0.231 seconds apart. The final group, another of the large classes with SM and touring cars, took the final green flag at 10:55pm! **Matthew Morin** led the field in his #22 SM until a mishap on lap 7 sent him back to fourth, opening the door for **Evan Karl**, who had been sitting right behind him, to take over the lead. Not one to give up, Morin managed to fight his way back to 2nd overall with just 2 laps to go.

2021 Repeat

Given the huge success of the first night race, the region is excited to make this a regular event. The 2021 schedule already includes a repeat and return to Thompson on August 21, 2021, where we'll do it all over again.



LOOKING BACK

50-Years Ago: NER Highlights From 1971

SCCA held their Annual Convention in BOSTON on January 29, 1971 to celebrate the club's 25th Anniversary.

AUTO-SLALOM:

Eric Carlsson-Monte Carlo Challenge Award

The schedule included events at the following sites:

- Herring Cove Beach
- Waterville Valley ski area
- Great Barrington town shopping center
- A night auto-slalom in Greenwich CT.

ROAD RACING:

2 Trans-Am races:
May 8: The Schaefer Trans-Am at Lime Rock Park

May 31: Bryar Motorsports Park

Eleven racing events happened - including Nationals, Regionals and Driver's Schools.

A Fire and Rescue Training was held in conjunction with MASSPORT at Logan Airport.

RALLY:

Robert Davidson Memorial Cup Challenge

The schedule included rallies beginning in January with:

24-hour Tri-State Rally in Maine and the 21st Cape Codders' Courageous.

At least one rally a month across New England, with the season ending at the Covered Bridge Rally in Montpelier Nov 7, 1971.

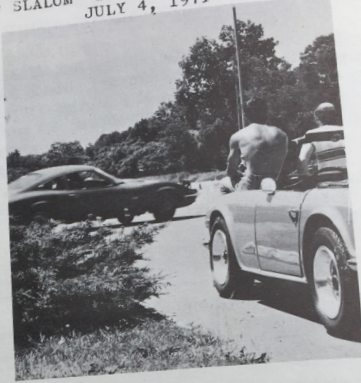
The New England Region Annual Meeting was held at the Berkshire Masters Hosts Inn, in Nashua NH in December of 1971.

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AUTO SLALOM GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.
JULY 4, 1971

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AUGUST 6-8

THOMPSON

REGISTRATION
FRIDAY 7-10PM Raceway
Restaurant
SATURDAY 8-9AM Track

CALL ED BROADHEAD
(603-763-2912)
HARRY DEST
(203-423-2705)

TODAY



Ray Caldwell (73) chases C. Tennant (21) thru the LRP esses during a 1971 FV race.

Mark Donahue at Limerock Park 1971 Trans-Am Winner



75 YEARS APART

TSMP Hosts Time Trial 75 Years After First SCCA Event

The first official SCCA event was a Time Trial held at Thompson Speedway 75 years ago, in July. To commemorate this anniversary, on the July 3-4 weekend of this year, New England Region partnered with the MoHud Region, as well as the Connecticut Autocross and Rally Team (CART), to host a return to the track with the same event where it all began.

Given that racing had been shut down for months due to the Covid pandemic, it took a coordinated effort between each of these organizations to facilitate a

return to some form of racing. In fact, this Time Trial was the first event NER hosted following the world-wide lockdown.

It took all the volunteers stepping up to assist with setup, tech, grid, timing and more to pull it off. But they did it with flying colors, even managing to host a socially distanced "Grab and Go" party with tons of food for all of the participants.

One highlight for the weekend was the attendance of **Greg Rickes**. The veteran Lime Rock Park announcer, showed up and volunteered to serve as the PA all weekend despite not having access to the control tower.

The photo of all 88 competitors below was taken by Geoffrey Bolte of clarustudios.com.





2021 TIME TRIALS SCHEDULE

May 22 @ Thompson Speedway
September 18 @ Thompson Speedway

Time Trials National Tour
July 3-4 @ Palmer Motorsports Park

**More dates may be added.
Check PitTalk.org for details.*



SCCA
TRACKNIGHT
IN AMERICA Driven by **TIRE RACK**
.com

2021 TNIA SCHEDULE

Lime Rock Park; Lakeville, CT
May 26, June 9, September 20, September 21

New Hampshire Motor Speedway; Loudon, NH
May 13, August 5

Palmer Motorsports Park; Palmer, MA
June 30, July 21, September 9

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park; Thompson, CT
April 22, May 6, June 1, June 24, July 13, July 29, August 16,
August 31, September 16, October 5

Unlike previous seasons, registration will be staggered this year to give people a better shot at registering for popular events that frequently sell out and allow a little leeway for possible COVID scheduling changes.



- | | |
|--|--|
| AS: Thomas West (4th)
Michael Lavigne (5th)
Kelly Lubash (9th)
Mark Wheaton - DNF | T4: Nick Leverone (2nd) |
| B-Spc: Ryan Hall (6th) | STL: James Goughary (17th)
Bob Beede - DNF
Richard Astacio - DNS |
| FA: Spencer Brockman (1st) | SRF3: Robert Reed (14th)
Tora Bonnier (34th)
Bruce Myers - DNF |
| FC: Matthew McDonough - DNS | SM: Nick Leverone (19th)
John Ogle (45th)
Elivan Goulart,
John Raudat,
Richard Astacio - DNF |
| GT2: Thomas West (6th) | |
| T1: Hugh Stewart (4th) | |



- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 3rd Place: | Clifton Kangus - Prepared AWD |
| 4th Place: | Hal Denham - Stock FWD |
| 17th Place: | Warren Elliot - Prepared FWD |

Both the Runoffs and RallyCross National Championships were still able to run this year, albeit with lower participation numbers than in many previous years.

RallyX had a last minute location move to Topeka, and three of our NER drivers made the trek to participate. The Runoffs stayed at their originally scheduled venue in Road America, with 18 drivers competing and 8 workers travelling to volunteer.

NER left these championship events claiming one new title - **Spencer Brockman** is the 2020 Formula Atlantic National Champion. **Nick Leverone** also claimed a podium spot in T4, with a 2nd place finish. And at DirtFish, **Clifton Kangus** just barely missed a trophy with a 3rd place finish in Prepared AWD.



RAL RAISES \$8163

During the August 6-9 weekend, each NER program once again hosted events to support and raise funds for the UMass Memorial Medical Center and the children and families battling cancer as part of our annual Racing Against Leukemia weekend.

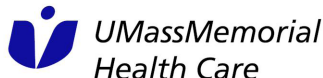
COVID naturally made it impossible for us to visit the UMass kids and bring our racecars for them to enjoy. However, under the guidance of **Andrew Benagh** and **Wiley Cox**, for the first time we hosted an iRacing Virtual Enduro. This became the biggest money-earner for RAL in 2020. It was so popular, a winter iRacing

league was formed and many of our drivers continue to battle it out virtually in the off-season.

When the final tally from the iRacing Enduro, the club racing auction, as well as cash donations from Rally and Solo participants were tabulated, the region issued a check for \$8163 to the hospital.

While smaller than previous years, given the restrictions from Covid and the financial hardships many people experienced, this was a significant donation we were proud to make.

UMASS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION





The Northeast Division Historic Race Group's season started almost two months late. The first event taking place at Lime Rock Park in July and finishing up at Watkins Glen in October.

Although it lost two events early this year due to Covid, the class was able to complete 7 points races in over 4 race weekends.

Congratulations to the 2020 Champions, and all the HRG competitors that promote the continuation of these historically significant automobiles as race cars.

2020 HRG Champions

- HGR-1 Mike Harmuth**
- HRG-2 Tony Hess**
- HRG-3 Dave Gott**
- HRG-4 Jake Clapp**
- HRG-5 Michael Dube**

ROAD RALLY



Probably one of the most conducive racing events for a Covid year would be our Road Rally program. Participants travel independently in their own vehicles - which is the perfectly social distanced activity!

Jon and Kelli Lamkins worked closely with the state and SCCA National office to ensure everything was within the guidelines, and were ultimately able to organize four Road Rally GTA (Game-Tour-Adventure) events.

These included Hurdle in Connecticut, and the RAL GTA and Grab Bag that traversed through New Hampshire.



2020 CHAMPIONS

Class A Driver: Chris Regan
Class A Navigator: Michael Beliveau

Class S Driver: Colin Roddy
Class S Navigator: Dan Praetorius

Rally of the Year:
Grab Bag
RallyMaster:
Michael Beliveau
Cameron Dewars:
Chris Regan

**RALLY ANNUAL
AWARDS**

WELCOME 508INTL

Rally Secures a New Track in Charlton, MA

While road racing and solo returned to hosting events in July, the Rally drivers were forced to wait until September to get back on the track. And as events would have it, the return to dirt racing coincided with breaking in a new track for the Rally teams.

Welcome 508INTL

A few years ago, a former competitor who lived locally to the venue in Charlton, MA gave the Rally board a heads up that a new site was under construction. **Scott Carlon** contacted the site coordinator, and she was very interested in letting our teams come out to play.

“Scott reached out to us when we first opened to plan a Rallycross event on site,” explained **Amber Howard** of 508INTL. “A couple racers came down to tear around the venue and see if it would be a viable race venue.” Those racers were **Paul LaMoreaux and Chris Regan**. “Paul graciously hauled his VW down there from NH one weeknight in 2019 and met Chris there with his Mazdaspeed6 to ‘make sure everything was hunky-dorey’ and to give some feedback on landscaping the place to make it a more RX friendly venue,” Scott added.

The feedback from those two experienced drivers included comments to widen this road, fill this ditch, move this rock pile. With the place still an active construction site, there were blasted and crushed aggregate piles everywhere.

Getting it on the 2020 Schedule

With all the craziness of 2020, Amber and Scott finally put pen to paper to get an event on the books and make it happen. Amber adds, “The process was fairly smooth as far as prepping for the race. However, the ever-wavering COVID restrictions kept us on our toes. We checked in weekly until finally finding a doable weekend.”

That was the weekend of September 19. After a long, dry summer with little rain, the ground was dry and extremely dusty. As **Vojtech Kubec** noted, “The masks served a dual purpose in simultaneously protecting us from Covid and from breathing dust, especially for those who were working on the track.”

Photos by Ian Pouliot





Chris and Phil designed a couple courses that really maximized the potential of the three levels of lots that the site made available to use. The feedback from those attending was that it was really fun and a great way to wreck a pair of tires or two.

Overall, the event went off without a hitch, from start to finish. According to 508INTL personnel, all the participants were respectful and gracious throughout the day. "The race was well organized before and during. We look forward to hosting more NER events in 2021," Amber concluded. The NER rally board concurs, as plans are already in the works for a return in 2021.

About 508INTL

508 International is a new sports and entertainment venue in Charlton, MA. It's a giant outdoor playground that hosts everything from motocross to Jeeping to mountain biking to concerts. Nearly 500 acres in total, this venue is family friendly and always looking for new ways to bring people together. Whether its a Rallycross race or an epic birthday celebration, 508 International is the go-to destination for outdoor recreation.

Visit them at www.508intl.com.



NER DINOSAUR SUPER SERIES

WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

Dan Sheppard



*HE KEEPS OUR
DINOSAURS
RUNNING!*



YOUNG BLOOD

NER's 14-year-old SRF Driver

It didn't take long once the 2020 season started before word spread through the paddock. This new SRF3 driver was out-of-the-gates fast and already challenging for the lead with guys that had been racing SRFs for decades. Then the real bomb dropped. This new guy on the scene was a 14-year-old. Not old enough to even drive himself to the track, or even legally stand in the pit lane, but already setting track records and bringing home checkered flags.

Evan Slater quickly made a name for himself at NER races this season, finishing 2nd in the NERRC Championship points as a rookie, with two track records and nine podium finishes over his entire season of racing. From Portsmouth, NH, he made the jump from karting to SRF3 this season, on his way to a goal of some day racing professionally.

"At the driver's meeting for those first races, some guys didn't even realize he was the driver," explained Evan's dad, Zach Slater. But eventually, many of those "old" guys would take Evan under their wing and mentor him through his first year in SRF. "**Steve Owens, Jim Regan, Rob Reed, Trevor Hopwood, Mark Saviat, and Kevin Treffensen** really went out of their way to make him feel welcome. **Steve Introne, Lincoln Young, and Will Hendrix** were supportive too. He truly enjoys the camaraderie off the race track among the other drivers." When the occasional on-track incident occurred, these veterans took the time to talk the situations through with Evan, helping him understand what happened, race etiquette, and how to prevent these minor dust ups in the future.

As a teenager coming out of karts, the stewards were naturally a little wary. But Evan dissipated those concerns. "The stewards I interacted with gave me encouragement and support. I did get yelled at in the prefinal of the NERRC Championship race for passing under yellow, but that same steward, after the final race, came over and told me "I saw something special here today." That was probably the best compliment I could get!" Evan said.



From the grid workers, to Thumper in EV and the F&C crew, all the NER workers have helped him at various points in the season. And it's been fun watching a kid tear around the track and shake up the grid lineups for all these long-time SRF drivers.

While Evan is naturally talented, he does have a few people to thank. "**Shawn, Liam, Josh, Bob, and Julian** from Motion Dynamics were also incredibly supportive, both at the races and when practicing at Club Motorsports. I couldn't ask for any better team support," said Evan. MoDy will continue to provide paddock support as he moves on to more National racing, like the Hoosier Super Tour he ran last month down in Florida. "**Mark Ketenci and Maurizio Cerasoli** of MC Racing have also been true mentors to me."

Moving into the 2021 season, Evan is now 15, still unlicensed for street cars, and planning to compete at NER regional races as well, "I'm especially looking forward to racing at Lime Rock," he added, which was cancelled last year due to Covid. His winter season was sponsored by **Nik and Brian of Cube3**, an architectural firm in Boston.

What's abundantly clear is that Evan is a driver to watch, and a testament to how SCCA can be a stepping stone for young talent coming out of karts. In fact, "Two karting friends are coming to the Thompson drivers school. Hopefully more. I want to be an example of how SRF3 is a great alternative to the traditional Formula 4 route to professional driving."

For the region, it will be exciting to follow Evan's continued development and know our club racing program had a part in his story.



SOLO'S SHORTENED SEASON

With all Solo events scheduled for Devens Airfield in Massachusetts, the autocross team was required to schedule and work within the strict guidelines of the state. One of the biggest hurdles was the limits on the number of people at group gatherings, which at some points over the last year were as few as 10.

When the group sizes were expanded, the autocross board worked diligently to organize events that allowed seasoned drivers to return and compete. Unfortunately, there were always limits, so that meant asking novice drivers and those looking to try Solo for the first time to wait.

In the end, Solo hosted 5 events, as well as the finale Team Challenge the day after Halloween, before closing out the 2020 season. No points were totaled, so there are no class champions for this year. Sadly, Solo Nationals was also cancelled, meaning no return trips to Nats for any of our regular championship competitors.

Heading into 2021, the Solo Board has a full schedule of dates already booked for Devens and anxiously awaits returning to the field of cones. Here's hoping and praying Covid doesn't throw a penalty flag and hamper the coming year as well.





Photos by Jacob Ronald and Alex Jackson



2021 SCHEDULES

The Solo, Rally, and Club Racing boards have released the following schedules for the 2021 season. The NERRC schedule is very similar to previous year's schedules. Solo has secured dates for the entire season at Devens Airfield. The Rally board has secured dates into February, with the remaining dates tentatively scheduled.

Naturally, as circumstances relating to the Covid pandemic change over the coming weeks and months, all events are subject to the state guidelines where each is scheduled to be held. Please check PitTalk.org regularly for updates to racing calendars to insure the most accurate information.

ROAD RACING

April 24
Thompson Drivers School

May 1-2
NERRC #1 Opening Weekend
Palmer Motorsports Park

May 15-16
NERRC #2
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

June 11-12
NeDivCS/NERRC #3 Paddock Crawl
Lime Rock Park

July 9-10
Northeast Majors/NERRC #4
Thompson Speedway

August 7-8
NeDivCS/NERRC #5
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

August 21
NERRC #6 Night Race
Thompson Speedway

September 11-12
NERRC #7 Pig Roast
Palmer Motorsports Park

October 1-2
NeDivCS/NERRC #8 Championship Weekend
Thompson Speedway



RALLY

ROAD RALLY

- February: Winter Challenge
- March: Frost Heaves
- May/June: Big Lap
- August: Summer Challenge & Hurdle
- September: Rally Against Leukemia
- October: Cape Cod Courageous
- November: Grab Bag

RALLYSPRINT/RALLYX

- February: Team O'Neil RallySprint
- March: 508inl
- April: Rochester Fairgrounds
- May/June: Mt Snow and Blue Lot
- August: 508inl

AUTOCROSS

- April 4 & 25
- May 15 & 29-30
- June 13 & 26
- July 11
- August 1 & 22
- September 19
- October 10 & 31

Devens Airfield Dates

The NER Solo Board is planning to run a Points Schedule for 2021 to determine class champions. Details will be announced prior to the first event date.

RETURN ADDRESS:
PIT TALK
SCCA, NEW ENGLAND REGION
18 HIGHCLERE RD
WINDHAM, NH 03087

A last turn, last stage, almost-incident at the NER SCCA Fall into Winter Rallysprint at the Team O'Neil Rally School with Dylan Gondyke driving and Ben Chuong as the co-driver.

Photo by Dylan Gondyke

