

2023 Annual Yearbook for the New England Region, SCCA



Panda Claims 8th Solo National Championship



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2023 NEFV Championship

Champion
Gerard Owen Callaghan

2nd in Points
Mike Hinkle

3rd in Points
Chase Johnson

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Most Improved Driver
Chase Johnson



Rookie of The Year
Mychal Russo

NEFV 2024 Schedule

Date	Location	Event
May 11-12 (S/S)	Palmer	NER Opening Weekend
June 14-15 (F/S)	Lime Rock	Paddock Crawl
July 6 (Sat)	Thompson	Midnight Madness
July 27-28 (S/S)	NHMS	Paul Faford VeeFest, RAL, OWDE
Sep 7-8 (S/S)	Palmer	Pig Roast
Oct 18-19 (F/S)	Thompson	Championship Weekend



Open Wheel
Driving Experience

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 of the 8-time Solo National Champion "Panda" 1997 Nissan 240SX taken by **PJ Corrales**.

Please also thank **James and Rochelle Ray, Perry Bennett, Tony Campano, Rupert Berrington, Warren Elliott, Tyler Remalia, and Will Koscielny** for their contributions.



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FROM THE REGIONAL EXEC



As I sit here to write my fourth and final Pit Talk yearbook article, I am reminded of our club's rich history and lineage.

SCCA was founded in 1944. The original Boston region of the club was formed in 1949, then expanded in 1952 and renamed the New England Region, to include

Connecticut and members from all the other states.

Through the years its members have enjoyed an active program of motorsport competition including rally, solo, club racing, and rally-cross. Other activities include the Annual Meeting, presentation of awards, and recognition of member's achievements. In recent years, digital and print media and a website have been developed for the publication of events and results and other communication with the members. Many current members think NER has always been here - it was here long before we became active and surely it will roll along forever providing us with the activities which 'hooked' us in the first place. With almost 2800 members, we are now the third largest region in the country.

2023 was another successful year for the club. Financially, we are in a comfortable position with all of our programs doing well. For 2024, we have a full schedule of events for everyone. Our Solo program will host two National events this year. We had our annual meeting in January which was well attended.

As we begin our 75th year of existence, the club has rarely, if ever, been in as good shape as it is now. We have a steady and healthy membership count. We are financially sound. We have many strong programs available for our membership to enjoy. But as is true for everything in life, it is not perfect.

The one thing required above all else to allow this to continue is leadership. We are so fortunate to have the people running our programs and our club that we have. But it is a relatively small group that does this, and many of them have been doing it for over 20 years. We have over 2800 members, yet less than 100 of them are in a position of leadership. The one thing that we MUST do is to have people waiting in the wings for when they are needed. We can't ask the same people who have been doing it forever to continue to do it evermore. They deserve an opportunity to step down at a time of their choosing without having to worry about 'WHO WILL CARRY ON'. And to do that, we need members to get involved. We need folks that are willing to invest some time and effort to learn how they can contribute to the management of the club, whether at a program or club level. So that when the time comes, we have folks ready to step up to the challenge.

So, I ask you to make another New Year's Resolution... to find an area of our club that you might be interested in helping to manage, and volunteer yourself to getting involved and learning what it's all about.

Abhi Ghatak

REGION DIRECTORY

2024 NER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Time Trials - Paul Omichinski - pomichinski@icloud.com
CRE - Peter Morrison - morrisonpeter47@gmail.com

SCCA TURNS 80

80

1944-2024



NER TURNS 75

It All Started in Boston

On February 26, 1944, seven men gathered at the Boston home of Chapin Wallour, a Harvard-trained engineer.

What started as simple meetings, eventually turned into car shows, and from there evolved into Road Rally tours where members drove their cars at legal speeds on public roads.

Ultimately, the Sports Car Club of America was born. The first sanctioned race event was in 1948, the "Watkins Glen Grand Prix" in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York.

In 1949, the original Boston region of the club was formed. As it grew, smaller groups in the area and individual members through the northeast decided to come together to form one cohesive region for the club that represented everyone. In 1952, it was renamed the New England Region of the SCCA to provide an umbrella for everyone. Give those Boston roots, that makes 2024 the 75th anniversary of our founding. It

also makes NER the oldest of the current 116 regions in the club.

Heading into the 2024 season, both SCCA and the New England Region will be recognizing and honoring the long history of our club - both how it has survived, and how it has evolved over three-quarters of a century.

What began as a car show and road rally affinity group, now represents over 65,000 auto enthusiasts across the United States, and sanctions more than 1700 events annually. Here in New England, more than 2800 members call us their home region, and we host almost 40 events annually in our road racing, solo and rally programs alone.

Together, NER and SCCA have a long history of promoting #funwithcars to racers throughout the New England states.

Join us this year as we celebrate our enduring history.

"Seven men had a dream. Through their efforts, and those of the thousands of members, workers, entrants and administrators, the SCCA has benefited all those who possess a passion for the automobile, whether for sport or transportation, and to this end the Sports Car Club of America is dedicated."



SportsCar Comes to an End

The January/February 2024 issue of SportsCar commemorating the 80th anniversary of the club will be the final print publication. With the media, marketing and communications landscape changing profoundly since the first issue of SportsCar in 1984, both the SCCA and Racer Media & Marketing decided to undertake new initiatives in 2024 to take advantage of the accelerating revolution in media and content distribution technologies.

"We are forever grateful for the privilege of publishing the magazine for exactly half of the Sports Car Club of America's 80-year existence, and we are proud that our 460th issue will also be final issue of the magazine in regular frequency."

With the conclusion of SportCar, the Pit Talk Yearbook becomes one of the few remaining printed publications within the club.

NER HONORS

Congratulate these members for going above and beyond. Their tireless dedication to our club has positively impacted our members and programs. These awards are our way of bringing light to the work they do, and offering our thanks and appreciation for the positive impact they make on our club and specifically our region.



**Philip
LaMoreaux**
RE Award

The Regional Executive Award is presented to an NER member for extraordinary support of NER and its activities. This year's recipient is Phil LaMoreaux. Phil volunteers in our Rally program and is often the first one there, and the last one to leave. In 2023, Phil spearheaded finding, restoring and refurbishing a new RallyCross bus for the program. Phil literally keeps the Rally program running smoothly.



Eileen McStay
Assistant RE Award

The Assistant RE award is presented to a member for unseen support of the region. This year's recipient, Eileen McStay is a former F&C chief. For years, Eileen worked tirelessly behind the scenes recruiting, developing, and training F&C volunteers, in addition to managing all of the duties of organizing and supporting the F&C teams at road racing events.



**Sal Baisley
George Farrar
Tom Galuardi**
Gold Pass Recipients

Sal is an active volunteer at NER road race and time trial events, where he works a variety of specialties when he is not competing in ITA.

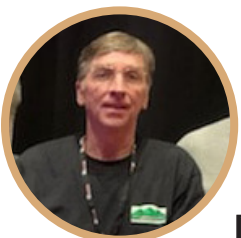
George serves on the NER BOD and is also a prolific racer and volunteer in club racing, solo and rallycross.

Tom (not pictured) is a long time racer in the FV class, who is always willing to help new racers.



David White
Ma & Pa Philbrick Award

The Ma & Pa Philbrick Award is essentially NER's Worker of the Year recognition. It is also selected, not by the BOD or leadership team, but by the previous year's winner. This year, David White was selected for this honor. He came to SCCA in his early adulthood and has been a continual worker presence at events ever since. You never know where David will be found. He could be flagging turns, organizing cars on grid, inspecting vehicles at tech, or providing support to the EMS team. He is a tireless volunteer who can be counted on to pitch in wherever it's needed.



Clyde Heckler
Best New
National Road Rally,
Div. Road Rally Achievement

Clyde, a dual Pittsburgh and NER region member, was awarded the Best New National Road Rally award for the Little Appalachian event. He was also selected for the Divisional Road Rally Achievement Award for the division's ongoing program and success in events, promotions, attendance and innovation.



Kathy Barnes
Castle-Stone Steward of the
Year Award

Named in honor of John Castle and Floyd Stone, this award is given to an SCCA Northeast Division Race Steward for their outstanding service and contribution to sport. respected NEDiv Stewards. In addition to stewarding road race events, Kathy works tirelessly with the Track Night in America and Solo programs in her, well over, 40 years as a SCCA member.

HELP WANTED

New Team Spearheading Worker Recruitment

Asst. RE **Steve Introne** began leading a Recruiting Team in 2023 to help drive awareness and build participation in the NER road racing worker program. Finding a lack of recruiting materials available, the team's first step was developing handouts, presentations and videos to find and attract new workers. They are using those to host a Recruitment Day at NHMS in July 2024. This full-day event will showcase all the worker specialties.

The hope is that attendees to the Recruiting Day will get hooked and help staff up our volunteer ranks for future races.

Do you have family or crew members that are curious about all the different specialties? Sign them up! This day is the perfect opportunity to learn more about how they can get involved on race days.

NER Recruiting Day
NHMS
July 27, 2024
recruiting@ner.org



WORKER TRPs GO DIGITAL

**TRPs are now issued electronically,
check balance online.**

Each credit is worth \$10 (vs \$8)

**Paper TRPs remain valid,
but are still only worth \$8**

NER's Club Racing Track Redemption Program (TRP) provides credit to each volunteer for each day worked. This is available to workers across all specialties.

Traditionally volunteers received a paper coupon each day, which had to be saved and physically turned in to be redeemed. This was a great way for our specialty chiefs to be able to personally thank each worker and connect with them at the end of the day. But paper coupons get lost, or forgotten.

To simplify the process, in 2023 the region decided to

go digital with the TRP program. All TRPs were issued electronically via a Google form, where workers can check their balance at any time.

Additionally, two improvements are being made to the program. The value for the new electronic TRPs will be increased to \$10. Additionally, there will now be the option to redeem in 0.5 TRP increments – making it much more convenient for gift card purchases!

Old TRPs Coupons?

The next obvious question will be, what about all my old TRPs coupons? If you have TRPs at home, don't worry – these are still valid. Paper TRPs can continue to be used for all redemptions including merchandise, gift cards, membership, and annual meeting charges. They will not expire, and the paper TRPs value will remain at \$8 each.

NOTE: There will not be any conversions from paper TRPs to digital TRPs. So please do not throw them away!



Bob & Elise Beaulieu
Mark Saviet



Congratulations to the following members for reaching these milestone anniversaries!



Scott Down
Richard Johnson
Colin Lawrence
Joseph Lorusso
Mark Mallory
Matt Miskoe

Timothy Murphy
Matt Rowe
Tyson Sawyer
Russ Siggelkoe
Jerry Streckert
Stacey Strout

Jeff Swann
William Thompson
Peter Villaume
Patrick Villaume
Bill Washburn



Cecilia Albani
Isbella Albani
Trey Albani
Kevin Andrade
John Andrea
Jennifer Argyle
William Argyle
Rachel Baker
Jeffrey Bakken
Jacob Benagh

Ryan Bjerke
Ashlyn Blethen
Sebastian Blethen
Thomas Bogar
Paul DeYeso
Mark Dudek
Paul Farmer
Jennifer Ferreira
Amy Kelly
Samantha Kimber

Keith Knickerbocker
Mark Lewis
T. Mariano
Tom Mariano
Rob McLaren
Dana Nicgorski
Edwin Rhodes
Mark Robson
Jacob Ronald
Alan Salnikov

Jorge Santos
Jesse Schmidt
Margaret Sharron
Ryan Soucy
John Verrochi
Curt Vogt
Carter White
Lincoln Young



Ken Abbott
Lelia Alexander
Stuart Alexander
Carl Allen
John Ambruso
Joseph Ballow
Jessica Barlow
Donna Bastrzycki
Kenneth Beers
Dmitry Beliaev
Jessica Beliveau
Christopher Benson

Jenson Blethen
Allen Briere
David Cafferty
Larry Canova
Thomas Carr
Audrey Carr
Edward Carr
Judith Carr
Kelly Cash
Lou Confrancisco
Emma Conway
Joseph Conway
Brandon Dean
Patricia Detrick
Paul DeYeso
Thomas DiCandido
Theresa Doyon
Jason Dube
Justin Eastman
Matthew Emanouil
Brian Ericsson

Peter Fontana
Henry Frye
Cosme Fumex
Albert Gallo
Martin Gatto
Dan Glass
Christopher Grace
Eva Grimes
Nora Grimes
Sarah Grimes
Mark Gunsalus
Ryan Hansen
Thomas Haronian
Hiroshi Hatano
John Heddens
PAUL HINTZ
Carl Hober
Patrick Huxley
Eric Ives
Patrick Jamin
Phillip Jue

Alex Juhasz
Lavern Kendra
Cameron LaBarge
Richard Lambour
Michael Lanza
William Lawson
Jason Leaming
Matthew LeBlanc
Jason Lee
Cindy LeFebvre
Jeffrey Mann
David McGrath
Maxim Merkuryev
Pierre Michaud
Ronald Migliozi
Stephen Milton
Manfred Moehring
Jeff Morin
Tamara Morrison
Savelei Nemchuk
Kenneth Newton

Nicole Newton
Tina Newton
Jordan O'Brien
Kevin O'Flaherty
Amanda Oliveira
Pierre Oustinow
Emily Papenhausen
Lauren Papenhausen
Matthew Papenhausen
Maya Papenhausen
Jody Poduje
Paul Poor
Aric Rasmussen
Bill Rice
Peter Rizzo
Scott Rose
Michael Ruggiero
Robert Sammons
Nathan Saxon
Jonathan Scott
Roy Shanholtz

Thomas Shydo
Thomas Stagliano
Marshall Stocker
Terrence Sturm
Craig Swinehart
Thomas Swoboda
Diana Sylvester
Karley Sylvester
Kayla Sylvester
Walter Szwelanczyk
Valerie Szwelanczyk
Art Trifonov
Vanessa Vittum
Miller Washay
Devin Weintraub
Kurt Wheeler
Jesse Whitsell
Annette Woodle
David Woodle
Vasilios Zaharis
Lyle Zyra

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TRIPLE CROWN

George Farrar Claims 2023 Trophies in Solo, Road Racing and RallyX

Winning a regional championship is usually a big milestone in a racer's career. Once a new driver gets started and hooked on the sport, the first goal is to win an event. After a few event wins, sights get set on a season trophy, and then ultimately a season championship. Get good enough, and national championship titles start to invade the racing dreams.

In 2023, New England Region had one driver that not only took home a trophy in one racing category, he did it in THREE!

George Farrar collected a 3rd place in Road Racing's IT7 class, 1st place in Solo's CAMT class, and a 1st place in RallyCross's Stock RWD class.

That's three trophies, in three different racing programs, all in the same year.

At the NEW Awards Banquet, when George was honored with his Triple Crown trophy, as well as the Gold Pass award, he was asked for a speech. He simply replied, "I Love Racing."

Where It All Began

When asked about his love of cars, George starts his story by admitting he doesn't know where it really came from. "Both my parents were in the medical field. Maybe it was just growing up in the 1960's and being



I love racing and will continue for as long as I can afford it or my body says otherwise.

surrounded by all the cool cars." His first car was a 1964 Olds F85 that required a lot of upkeep. "Maybe that's why I became a mechanic." However, it would be another 30 years before George actually got into racing itself.

Thank You Groupon

A self-described "NASCAR couch potato" with a 1968 Mustang, George's wife **Janine** gave him a Groupon for 10 laps at Stafford Speedway with the Rusty Wallace Experience in 2012. The flood gates opened. Multiple Groupon purchases later, he was tired of wearing someone else's sweaty driver suit, so his first step was buying his own. He spent two years on oval tracks in a couple amateur races, and then in 2015 started working pit row at Thompson Speedway and ended up in a Miata road course school held by **Pete Morrison**. "Left-right-shift-brake was way more fun than left turns only."

His first year he rented a Miata and did the summer series at TSMP, then purchased his own GTL Miata the following year and ventured out to NHMS with NER.



"Everyone was so helpful, but one guy stood out - **Abhi Ghatak**. He got me situated, introduced me around, and helped with car set up. We ended up becoming very good friends."

From Road Racing to RX and Solo

It was the next year when he overheard some racers talking about car control and that RallyX and the dirt is a great place to learn. "I threw some snow tires on the '98 Mustang and started RallyCrossing."

Unfortunately, half-way through that third year, he suffered a back injury that would keep him out of racing for almost 3 years. "During that hiatus, I converted the 1968 Mustang from a show car to a street cruiser. When I was ready to get back out on track, I thought what better place to have fun with it and avoid tickets, than at an Autocross!"

Season Highlights

"While I do really enjoy racing in all three programs, if I had to rank them, my preference would be road racing, then rallyx, then autox." But there are two moments that stand out so far in his racing career.

"In 2022 I won the RallyCross championship by only 6 points. This was the closest competition across all nine classes. This year's 3rd place finish in IT7 is also very memorable due to the tough competition. I need to give a shout out to **Dick Patullo**. He helped with the running/set-up of my car and acted as my driving instructor. Being stuck behind Dick all season taught me a lot, lessons I hope to show off next season. But in the last race of this season, he taught me two very important things.

1: Don't Drive with Emotion - frustration, anger, and pain will effect your driving, making you unpredictable. And that's a bad thing.

2. Be Consistent - The last race of the year I passed Dick twice, yet still ended up behind him at the checkered flag because I kept trying to drive over my head."

Giving Back to NER

Managing race schedules and events across three different programs, with three cars, and locations across New England would appear to make George a very busy man. However, George still finds the time to give back to the region.

George currently serves on NER's Board of Directors, and is the acting Secretary - taking all of the meeting notes and minutes. Besides winning three trophies for his racing prowess, the region recognized George at the Awards Banquet with the Gold Pass, honoring his dedication to our club. Whether you're at a road racing, rallycross or autocross event in 2024, keep an eye out for George Farrar as he'll more than likely be there as well. Thank you George for everything you do.

1968 Mustang - CAMT



2012 Mustang - Stock RWD



Mazda RX7 - IT7



NER HOSTS 1ST PROSOLO

Final Stop on the 2023 Tour Came to Maine

Every year, NER brings back multiple Solo National Championships and double digit trophy placements. But ironically, for a region as large and dominating as we have been in the autocross community, it might come as a surprise that we have never hosted a ProSolo event. That all changed the weekend of August 11-13 in 2023.

NER joined forces with **Cumberland Motor Club** to utilize the Brunswick Executive Airport for it's first ProSolo event. This also happened to be the last ProSolo stop in the 2023 tour before the culminating event at Solo Nationals in Lincoln, September 1-3.

An event of this size and magnitude cannot be done alone. It takes an entire village, and the NER Solo community stepped up across the board. Over 130 entrants made the drive way north to Brunswick, Maine - a location that many might think infeasible given it's over 2 hours north of Boston. But as they say, if you build a great course and run a great event - they will come. And they did.

The great course was courtesy of **Will Koscielny**. He designed a safe and conservative course, which was the smart call for this inaugural event. But safe never means easy. He still managed to throw in a monster high-speed sweeper, a pin turn to hang yourself with the open space, some tight pinches and an overall design that pushed participants to try multiple options in order to find the fastest way through.

Everyone Played A Part

"Every single person stepped up to the plate and made the event a huge success," explained **Will Koscielny**, Assistant Solo Chair and Course Designer for the ProSolo. "From gate volunteers, tech workers, course setup, registration and all the little things that can go unnoticed. I heard countless positive feedback about the site and flow and process and even the short course. We asked multiple people to become Chiefs for the event, and they all did excellent jobs. We learned about the site and how we could make adjustments for next year."

A key component to the success was the partnership with CMC. They graciously loaned cones for the event, and also found and started the relationship with the Brunswick Executive Airport and the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority. That partnership made this event a possibility in the first place.

More to Come in 2024

Ultimately, everything went so well, the national office Solo team has booked NER to not only host a return ProSolo tour in 2024, but they also added a National Tour stop as well. Both of these events are scheduled for back-to-back weekends in June (ProSolo June 7-9 and National Tour June 14-16.)

It's going to be an exciting summer of autocross competition, both at the regional and national competition levels.



The Ladies of the NER Pro Solo



Doug Leonard
860-234-2364
Brooklyn, CT

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- OTR Autosports is fully insured whether it is race prep, transportation or storage.

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ROAD RACING CHAMPIONS

B-SPEC

Milos Milivojevic

EP

Nicholas Sealey

FF

Edward Callo

FV

Gerard Owen Callaghan

GT1

Douglas Valley

GT2

Michael Kuna

IT7

Michael Lavigne

ITA

Hiroshi Hatano

ITB

Russell Zea

ITS

Kenneth Payson

Congratulations to the 2023 New England Road Racing Champions! With a 7 race season that included one weekend each at Palmer and Lime Rock, two weekends at NHMS, and three weekends at Thompson Speedway, 20 drivers claimed championship titles this year.

Showing a commitment to consistent performance, **Milos Milivojevic** in B-Spec, **Doug Valley** in GT1, **Tim Ginalski** in SRF, and **Rob Sturgis** in STL all went back-to-back as repeat winners from the previous year.

There were a few points races that were decided by the final championship weekend double points event. With a single digit spread, **Nicholas Sealey** edged out **Alex Hollenbeck** by just 4 points in EP, and **Tim Galinski** beat **Jeremy Randall** in SRF by 5 points. The FV, IT7, SM2 and T2 races were all down to less than 25 point differences as well.

Participation continues to be strong in the SM and FV classes. SM counted 80 drivers with points earning performances, and FV had 49 drivers competing - making them the largest subscribed classes in the fields. Solid showings from SRF3 (36 drivers), STL (30 drivers), and SM2 (29 drivers) made those classes well attended. One of our newest classes, SE30 had 10 competitors in 2023.

Heading into the 2024 season, the schedule will change slightly with 2 races at Palmer and only a single event at NHMS.

SE30

Thomas McGinn

SM

Michael Tosi

SM2

J.C. Ogle

SRF

Tim Ginalski

SRF3

Steve Owens

SSM

Mark Wheatley

STL

Rob Sturgis

T1

Murat Mark Ketenci

T2

Blaine Stine

T3

Justin Brigandi



Photos by James Ray



ITB ▶ 2023



FV ▶ 2023



ITS ▶ 2023



FF ▶ 2023



T2 ▶ 2023



GT1 ▶ 2023



SSM ▶ 2023



SRF ▶ 2023



T3 ▶ 2023



IT7 ▶ 2023



ITA ▶ 2023



SM2 ▶ 2023



GT2 ▶ 2023



SM ▶ 2023



B-Spec ▶ 2023



STL ▶ 2023



T1 ▶ 2023



EP ▶ 2023



SRF3 ▶ 2023



SE30 ▶ 2023

60TH ANNIV. RUNOFFS

Championship Racing Returns to VIR

For the 60th anniversary, SCCA Road Racing wrapped up its two-year run at Virginia International Raceway to crown the 23 National Champions in the pinnacle of amateur motorsports competition.

Unlike the hurricane that hit last year, 2023 brought beautiful weather for the week-long event. Unfortunately, the clear skies and sunny temperatures did not translate onto the course, as there were multiple incidents all week long, including one red flagged session.

This year, the SCCA also partnered with the Spec MX-5 Challenge Series to host its final two races of the season alongside the Runoffs, as an exhibition class. Next year, MX-5 becomes an eligible class for championship contention when the event returns to Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI.

All 23 trophy races, plus the 2 exhibition races, are available on the SCCA YouTube channel if you missed all the action.

NER Podiums

While NER did not bring home any championships this year, we did have one podium finish by T3 driver **Travis Washay**. He started well back of the lead in 9th position on the grid, before making a dynamic run that brought him to a bronze medal finish. From 9th to 3rd also earned Travis the Sunoco Hard Charger award for his VW GTI. This is Travis's second career podium at the Runoffs, his first back at Laguna Seca in 2014.

Runoffs Highlights

- In a “never before happened” event, there was a photo-finish tie at the checkered flag, resulting in Spec Miata co-champions!
- T4 had a margin of victory of just 0.075 seconds.
- NER dominated the T4 class, with 4 drivers finishing in the Top 10. **Nick Leverone** started 3rd on the grid, and **Raymond Blethen** held the 3rd place position for a brief time at the end of the race. Both were consistently in the mix battling for podium positions through the entire race, with Blethen narrowly missing the podium.
- Former NFL player **Jared Odrick** won the GT2 title and gave one of the most memorable pit lane victory interviews ever.
- Defending B-Spec champion **Steve Introne** was forced off track at turn 1, lap 1 leaving him at the back of the pack and taking away his chance at a repeat. Not one to just call it quits, he hard-charged his way from 23rd up to 9th place over the course of the next 14 laps.
- Starting 6th on the grid, **Thomas West** leaped to the 3rd place position at the start of the AS race. Unfortunately, he could only hold on to it through lap 9, just missing his shot at the podium.
- **Andrew Aquilante** claimed his 14th National Championship, making him 3rd on the all time list.
- **Hugh Stewart** and **Tony Ave** went back and forth for all 15 laps in T1, with the AMG eventually besting Stewart's BMW to place him 5th.
- Due to attrition from race incidents and broken vehicles during practice and qualifying, the GT1 race was cancelled and did not run.

NER Block Party Honored

The Hagerty “Keepin’ It Cool” Award went to New England Region for their sportsmanship on track and camaraderie in throwing one of the Wednesday evening parties. Known for having plenty of good food and lots of beer, the NER party planners (from left - **Steve Introne**, **Greg Amy**, **Ed Werry** and **JB Swan**) were awarded with a YETI cooler to use at future race events.



Top 10 Finishes

AS - 4th Place - Thomas West

B-Spec - 9th Place - Steve Introne

GTL - 5th Place - Chris Kopley

P1 - 4th Place - Todd Parks

STU - 8th Place - Michael Kuna

T1 - 5th Place - Hugh Stewart

T2 - 10th Place - Brian LaCroix

T3 - 7th Place - Francis Selldorf

T4 - 4th Place - Raymond Blethen

T4 - 7th Place - Nick Leverone

T4 - 9th Place - Richard Astacio

T4 - 10th Place - Stephen Blethen



*Travis Washay
Runoffs Podium*

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SOLO GROWTH

Autocross Program Evolves and Grows in 2023

Recapping the 2023 NER Solo program includes celebrating the 27 drivers that claimed regional championships, as well as the 4 that reached the top step on the podium at the national championships. But it also must include recognizing a transition in leadership, hosting the first ever ProSolo national event, and the success of a new timing system that greatly improved the efficiency and organization of the 12 events the region hosted this year.

Back to Devens and Up to Maine

Of the 2023 schedule, all regional events were held at Devens Airfield, including 9 points events, the Stirling Moss Challenge, and Team Challenge. But new this year, was the region's first opportunity to host a ProSolo event, and that was done in Brunswick, Maine. (Read about it on page 12.) Our NER team did such a great job, not only is the ProSolo returning in 2024, but we're adding a National Tour stop this year as well.

Season Titles

Of the 27 regional champions, 8 were repeats from 2022. Four drivers returned from SoloNats in Lincoln with National Championship trophies. Three had done it before, but for **Melanie Kwong**, she earned her first National Title in SSTL. Then there was **Evan LeBlanc** who had a stunning regional autocross season. Evan claimed a triple win as the Stirling Moss, PAX and PRO Champion.

New Timing System

After myriad timing issues in 2022, the autocross program committed to fixing the issue for the 2023 season; and they did. In large part thanks to **Ryan Field**. He created a new User Interface that culls from the live timing file to create a more readable format. This allows users to select a particular class they want to see, cone counts, DNFs and other stats. The new system also includes multiple tabs that help with event organization and logistics. A huge thanks to Ryan for leading this effort and delivering on a big improvement for the Solo program.

Women on Track

The NER Solo program is also leading the way in promoting Women on Track. **Jojo Corrales-Kean** and **Tamra Krystinik**, members of the WOT Solo Committee, helped turn the SoloNats WOT brunch from a sparse 20 attendees a few years ago, to more than 200 in 2023! It was so popular, they ran out of food and giveaways.

On to 2024

With all this growth, 2024 is looking to be an exciting year. Melanie and Will have taken over as program chairs, Solo attendance is up, and NER continues to put on high quality programs that are attracting national events under our umbrella. Look forward to many exciting times in the autocross world this year.

NEW ENGLAND REGION **SCCA**
Sports Car Club of America

2023 Champions at the NER Banquet



Street Categories

SS
Brian Doherty

AS
Russ Siggelkoe

CS
Steve Twaddle

DS
William Koscielny

ES
John Frongillo

FS
Ralph Zajac

GS
David Gott

HS
Josh Brockman

STH
William Platt

STS
Eric Scholz

STX
David Bocchichio

STR
Pavels Danilovs

STU
Amriel Lucier

SST
Shawn Pan

Prepared & Modified Categories

CSP
Michael Medici

CAMT
George Farrar

CAMS
John Smith

DP
Eric Brown

EP
Hansen Bargantine

FP
Trevor Frey

SMF
Don Kuehl

AM
Bob Barone

BM
Tamra Krystinik

EM
Steve Fucile

XA
Justin Chen

XB
Nathan Winters

PRO
Evan LeBlanc

Evan LeBlanc
Stirling Moss Champion
PAX Champion
PRO Champion



New Solo Chairs

After his decades of service to the NER autocross program, **Bob Davis** spent the 2023 season mentoring and developing Assistant Chairs **Will Koscielny** and **Melanie Kwong** to take over the reigns. In 2024, Will and Melanie will be on their own leading the Solo program, and we are extremely confident it is in very good hands.



SOLO NATS: HOMECOMING

NER Repeats '22 and Claims 4 National Titles

National Champions

Super Street Touring Ladies (SSTL):

Melanie Kwong

(1st National Championship)

Street Touring Roadster (STR):

Billy Davis

(7th Nationals Win, 2nd in Class)

E Prepared Ladies (EPL):

Kathy Barnes

(6th Nationals Win)

Street Modified (SM):

Todd Kean

(3rd Nationals Win, 3rd in Class)

Super Street R – 3rd place – Lynne Rothney-Kozlak

Street Touring Xtreme – 9th place – Evan LeBlanc

Street Modified – 2nd place – PJ Corrales

B Modified – 3rd place – Tamra Krystinik

B Modified – 4th place – Andrew Krystinik

D Street – 6th place – William Koscielny

D Street – 7th place – Mark Daddio

Street Touring Sport – 7th place – Brandon Dean

Street Touring Sport – 10th place – Brandon Dryer

Super Street Prepared – 5th place – Grant Reeve

For 2023, NER drivers went prepared to battle both extreme competition, and extreme heat. Forecasts predicted triple digits as they headed out to Lincoln Park. Thankfully, the heat wave broke mid-week.

With a Homecoming theme, the SoloNats teams celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Marking the Golden Anniversary were a number of special experiences, museum displays, and personalized details – like name tags honoring each participant's first year at SoloNats.

The WOT team also celebrated a huge success. With just a handful at the Nationals brunch two years ago, in 2023, more than 200 women gathered to support women in racing. It was so popular, they ran out of food and give-aways!

After more than 1300 competitors navigated the cones and completed their final runs, another great week of record breaking competition concluded with NER claiming 4 National Championship titles.

Photo by Perry Bennett





Highlights

- In addition to Todd Kean taking the title in Street Modified, NER also took the 2nd step on the podium as well with PJ Corrales falling just 0.763 seconds behind. This was also the 8th championship for the 1997 Nissan 240SX too!!
- Over the last year, Andrew and Tamra Krystinik have been building a new B Mod Dragon. The 2023 NER Autocross season has allowed them to test and tune at our local events. Making its debut at SoloNats, the couple took the 3rd and 4th trophy spots in the class with their car.



- It's also worth mentioning that the Krystiniks' came with a new 5-month old baby in tow. SoloNats is truly a family affair, and pulling off a 3/4 place, in a new car, with a newborn, is no small feat.
- Lastly, the couple was recognized with the "Hagerty Keeping it Cool" award for loaning their 2022 ProSolo/Championship winning DSP car out to the St. Marys.
- Billy Davis, claimed his 7th national championship. In 2023, he did it by the smallest margin of victory he's ever had. His STR winning final run only defeated second place by .004 seconds.
- The D Street class was big and deep this year, with 79 drivers competing. Even with all that steep competition, Will Koscielny pulled out a 6th place finish, and Mark Daddio (previous national champion) finished in 7th.
- Bill and Jane Goodale, SCCA Hall of Famers, made the trip out just for the homecoming. While they did not complete this year, it is remarkable that Bill drove in 47 of the 50 national championship events.

*Photos by Rupert Berrington, SoloMatters/
National Office, and NER Autocrossers*

Historic Solo Vehicles Return

As part of the Homecoming theme, Kathy Barnes, Paul Krysiak and Fred White brought out a car that first made it's debut back in 1991 at the Solo Nationals. That was 33 years ago. This E Prepared car was back to competition, after having been parked for 16 years! Paul and Fred piloted the Civic in EP, while Kathy was the sole competitor in EPL.

Then Ginette and Jinx Jordan's E Stock CRX was on display at the Museum of American Speed where the 50th Anniversary reception was held. This car started life in NER, and competed in 20 National Championships events, winning 8 titles.



SHINY NEW-TO-NER RX BUS

Goodbye to the old, hello to the new RallyCross bus



the flashing red and yellow lights and filling in the old holes. A couple weeks later the bus received two coats of white paint, and the doors and bumpers were cleaned of rust and painted black.

With the body work done, the refitting of the interior could be completed. Tables and organizers from the old bus were re-purposed into the new bus's larger interior. It also gained a better fire extinguisher holding box, and a radio charging station with clever and clean cable routing. The new bus also gave the team the opportunity to audit old equipment and thoughtfully make better spaces for helmets, cones, generators, and the myriad of equipment necessary to run an event.

The bus passed its inspection in early September and made its debut at the Little Pines RallyCross in Plymouth, NH later that month. It has since travelled longer distances to events in Charlton, MA and has performed flawlessly. Led by Phil, it was a team effort that will continue to be an asset for many years to come.

In 2023, as the rust holes and mechanical issues started to mount against the existing bus, the RallyCross board began to search for a replacement. It took a few months, but Phil LaMoreaux finally came across a winner- an old school bus from New York that had been stored inside and was relatively rust free.

On June 19th the paperwork was signed and New England RallyCross had a new-to-us bus. Soon after, repairs and outfitting began. Phil, Nate Simeon, Scott Carlson, and Hal Denham took on the laborious task of removing the seats and starting the mechanical work. A hitch and brake controller were installed along with a new oil pan, ball joints, and control arms before an alignment. All of this was completed by the team, and the bus was aligned at a local shop.

In late July, on one of the few days last summer that it didn't rain, Chris Martin and Tish Munson joined Phil to prep the body for paint. This also included removing



In Memoriam: Erin Kelly

In July 2023, NER lost long-time Rally participant **Erin Kelly** during a tragic accident at the New England Forest Rally. She came to NER through the Road Rally program, and quickly met **TJ Pullen** and formed the Pullen Away Rally Team, 909, in 2016.

She was often asked by other national competitors to serve as their co-driver. She was wacky, crazy and full of life. She will be dearly missed.



RX: SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

New leadership team, growing venue, high return rates

During the 2023 season, the program welcomed **Tish Munson** and **Chris Martin** as the new RallyCross Chairs. Chris and Tish have stepped up to take on the responsibility and been a welcome leadership team for the program. This included assisting **Phil LaMoreaux** with the selection and overhaul of the new RX bus.

Between January and November, 8 RX events were hosted by NER. This included the annual Winter Challenge trifecta at 508 INTL during the snowy months. The region also increased its partnership with

the Glove Hollow Christmas Tree Farm, which joined the list of RX venues at the end of last year. Proving to be an ideal RX location, NER scheduled three events there in 2023. Rounding out the season were single events at Union and Blue Lot. With 171 entries across 8 classes, there were 58 drivers that scored points at 2023 NER event this year.

On a national level, **Hal Denham** placed 3rd at RX Nationals in his 2006 Mini Cooper S.



SEASON CHAMPIONS

2023 RallyCross

S RWD: George Farrar

S FWD: Brandon Dryer

S AWD: Maxim Merkurjev

M RWD: David Baker

M FWD: Stephanie Reeve

M AWD: Nathan Simeon

P FWD: Hal Denham

P AWD: Chris Regan

2023 Road Rally

Class E Driver: Mark Stone

Class E Navigator: Chris Regan

Class L Driver:

Satish Gopalkrishnan

Class L Navigator: Savera D'Souza

Class S Driver: Alex Kuhner

Class S Navigator:

Phil LaMoreaux

Cameron Dewars:

Satish Gopalkrishnan & Savera D'Souza

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Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2024

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NorthAtlanticRacingAcademy.com



3RD PLACE AT RX NATIONALS

Long-time NER RallyCross drivers Warren Elliott (6-time National Champion) and Hal Denham took their 2006 Mini Cooper S to Heartland Park in Topeka, KS for the 17th RallyCross National Championships, where almost 80 other drivers arrived to vie for the 9 titles up for grabs.

After all the dust settled, Hal claimed a podium spot in Stock Front Wheel Drive, finishing with a 3rd place time. That eight-driver class saw a dominating performance by the eventual winner, Brad Trumbull from Utah, who took the win with a 27.881 second margin over 2nd place!



Photos by Warren Elliott



RAL DONATIONS SLIP IN 2023

Our traditional Racing Against Leukaemia weekend of events took a slightly different turn for the 2023 season. Previously, a large silent auction was held during the NHMS road racing weekend in August, which is where the majority of prior year's donations were raised. Unfortunately, no one volunteered to spearhead those efforts in 2023. Instead, all fundraising was simply through individual giving.

One exception was with the FV drivers. Collectively, this small group of drivers pulled together and raised \$1134 of the final \$4535 total all by themselves. They deserve a huge thanks for that contribution.

Heading into 2024, if any member would like to step up and take the lead to return the RAL charitable giving program to its once generous roots, please contact Abhi Ghatak. If not, then RAL might soon be coming to end.

2017: \$10,017

2021: \$13,831

2018: \$9,000

2022: \$17,125

2019: \$15,000

2023: \$4,535

2020: \$8,163

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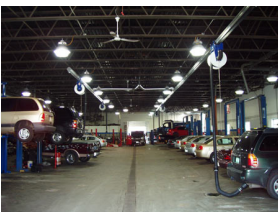
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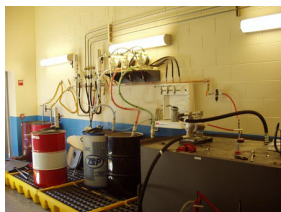
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MERCHANDISE [NER.org/merch](https://ner.org/merch)



Looking for stickers - including the 75th Anniversary NER stickers? Or need patches, bumper stickers, t-shirts or other SCCA and NER gear? Then head over to the NER Merchandise online order form to grab what you need.

75th Anniversary NER stickers will be available FOR FREE to members at the first 2024 events. If you need one mailed to you, contact **Donna Stevens** who can assist with all NER merchandise needs.



MAKE IT EASY

Club Spec, SMX, SE30, CRE - New Classes and Programs Strive to Simplify Getting on Track

With an 80-year history, we might assume that SCCA will always be around. But that longevity is in part a result of adapting to changing times and circumstances. To listening to what members want and need, and finding a way to give it to them. And that has to continue.

Currently, that includes a desire to make having #funwithcars less complicated. Attracting new members, and growing our programs, needs to include simple and easy ways to get involved.

One first step was the introduction of Track Night in America, which is celebrating it's 10-year anniversary this year. TNiA and Time Trials were intentionally designed to be low cost, low-barrier-to-entry routes to motorsports fun. Our Solo/Autocross programs also have options that can fit this bill.

But the huge success found in these experiential programs now paves the way for additional simplified paths to racing competition. Being developed at both the regional and national level, programs like Club Spec, SMX and SE30 classes, and Race Experience programs like the Club Race Experience (CRE) and Endurance Experience are opening new doors to facilitate more drivers doing more race things.

Club Spec

Buy one car, do all the things. Launched in 2023, Club Spec was designed with the goal to offer a vehicle with limited modifications that could be driven competitively in Solo, RallyCross, Road Rally, Time Trials, Hillclimbs and of course every TNiA event. Add to that, it would be street legal, to drive to and from events, or even to work.



This year, the first two cars kicking off the concept were announced. They are the 2006-'15 Mazda MX-5 (NC) and the 2005-'09 Ford Mustang GT.

As our own **George Farrar** demonstrated this year (see article on page 10), more drivers are wanting to compete in a variety of programs. **Heyward Wagner** explains, "more members [are] looking for a one-size-fits-all vehicle that can be competitive and fun no matter the venue, allowing them to autocross one weekend, run a Time Trials event the next, and be competitive in both."

The Time Trials Board and Solo Events Board have both blessed Club Spec Mustang and Club Spec MX-5 for 2024 events as supplemental classes. Specifics on classing and involvement for Road Rally and RallyCross events is currently being discussed.

SMX and MX-5 Challenge

When it comes to road racing, the highly available NC Miata is also finding a growing home in the SMX road racing class. Also based on the 2006-'15 Mazda Miata MX-5 (NC) chassis, the SMX class was designed as an affordable, reliable, tech-able, and fun-to-drive option for SCCA road racers. In 2018, Mazda Motorsports began developing the Spec MX-5 Challenge concept. It was a way to bridge that gap between Spec Miata and the MX-5 Cup. At that time, SMX cars were cleared to run in STL, and regionally in its own class.

At the 2023 Runoffs, SMX held an exhibition race. Starting January 1, SMX will now be fully recognized as a national championship class, and have an official race at the 2024 Runoffs.





"This is the perfect class for younger racers wanting to make that step up from karting, or newcomers to Miata racing who don't have the expertise of Spec Miata competitors," Jonathan Applegate, Senior Manager for Mazda Motorsports, said. "Having a single model, with a single build kit, sold exclusively by Mazda Motorsports, keeps everything spec and affordable."

SE30 Shows Regional Growth

New spec classes at the regional level are also attracting growing numbers. B-Spec saw huge growth starting in 2021 at the national level. Regionally, NER is watching the SE30 class take off. Short for SpecE30, the class is based on the second-generation BMW 3 Series (the E30 model). The goal was to develop a spec-level field of easily available cars and parts, that could race competitively at the regional events.

Several drivers with existing SE30 cars from another club reached out to NER about bringing this class to NER road racing. In 2021, rulesets and regulations were finalized, and the class kicked off.

For the 2022 and 2023 seasons, it was not uncommon to see packs of 5, 6, or 7 SE30 cars vying for position in tight races at NER events. As **Tom Samuelson** summarizes, "SE30 provides uniquely tight racing at what in racing terms is an awesome budget." **Jeff Hutton** made a similar comment saying, "SE30 is fun AND affordable, my brake pads and tires last longer than a season!"

Club Racing Experience (CRE)

In New England, CRE has also been a highly successful program as a way for new drivers to get a taste of wheel-to-wheel competition in a safe and controlled run group. And if hooked, the CRE program offers a pathway to obtaining a full competition road racing license.

NER regularly offers four CRE events each year - for 2024 there will be two at Palmer Motorsports Park, one at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, and one at Thompson Speedway.

Participation is open to any SCCA regular or weekend member. No special doctor's physical examination or competition license are required. Everyone 18 years or older with a valid driver's license, or young members between the ages of 14-17 years old who hold a valid SCCA Novice Permit, are eligible. Participating members must attest to their good health, sign both track and club waivers, have a race car that passes tech inspection, and wear all the required driver's safety gear.

That's it. Sign a waiver, borrow or rent the car and gear, and you too can be on track learning how to road race.

Volunteer Workers

Lastly, the absolute cheapest, easiest, and quickest way to get involved in racing is to volunteer to work an event. There's no cost (NER covers new volunteer memberships), and no equipment needed. Just a desire to be involved and a part of the action. Show up, and you're in.

As SCCA heads towards another decade of providing the best amateur sports car programs in the country, it is doing so by actively developing and promoting new pathways to participation. These came about because someone had an idea, got involved with the leadership teams, and started making it happen. We're a club of 65,000 members, which means there are a lot of untapped ideas and potential out there. Offer it up to your club, it's the only way we'll continue for another 80 years.

Photos by James Ray



2024 SCHEDULES

The Solo, Rally, and Club Racing boards have released the following schedules for the 2024 season. Some dates are tentative and may change. Please visit the schedule pages on the [NER.org](https://ner.org) website for the most current information and links to registration, supps, and all event details.

ROAD RACING

[NER.org/2024-NERRC-Schedule](https://ner.org/2024-NERRC-Schedule)

March 24
F&C Fire Rescue School

April 18-19
Thompson Drivers School

May 11-12
#1 Season Opener + CRE
Palmer Motorsports Park

June 14-15
#2 Paddock Crawl
Lime Rock Park

July 6
#3 Midnight Madness + CRE
Thompson Speedway

July 27-28
#4 RAL + CRE
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

August 9-10
#5 Last Chance Majors
Thompson Speedway

September 7-8
#6 Pig Roast + CRE
Palmer Motorsports Park

October 18-19
#7 Championship Weekend
Thompson Speedway

Photo by James Ray



RALLYCROSS

Photo by Tyler Remalia

Jan 6:
Feb 10: 508 Winter Series
Mar 16:

April 20: Blue Lot Spring

May 11: Glove Hollow Christmas
Tree Farm

Aug 10-11: Union



[NER.org/2024-Rally-Schedule](https://ner.org/2024-Rally-Schedule)

ROAD RALLY

Feb 24: Winter Challenge
March 23: Seacoast Scramble
April 6: Cape Codders Courageous
Sept 14: RAL GTA
Oct 19: Hurdle 2024 Regional GTA Road Rally
Oct 19: All the Myriad of Ways National GTA Road Rally
Nov TBD: Grab Bag Rally



AUTOCROSS

NER.org/2024-Solo-Schedule

POINTS EVENTS

April 7 & 28
May 19
June 1
July 14
August 11 & 25
September 22
Nov 2 & 3 (TBD)

NATIONAL PRO SOLO

June 7, 8, 9

NATIONAL TOUR

June 14, 15, 16

EVO DRIVING SCHOOL

June 30

STIRLING MOSS RUNOFF

October 13

Photo by Will Koscielny



TNIA & TIME TRIALS

TrackNightInAmerica.com/Events

TimeTrials.SCCA.com



ANNIVERSARY

Lime Rock Park; Lakeville, CT

April 25, May 9, June 18, July 15, August 8, September 19

New Hampshire Motor Speedway; Loudon, NH

July 26

Palmer Motorsports Park; Palmer, MA

July 18, September 5

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park; Thompson, CT

April 16, May 2, May 23, June 6, June 25, July 9, August 20, September 10, September 26, October 15



No National Tour Events

MoHud Event - June 29 @ Palmer

CART Event - Sept 21 @ TSMP

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Thompson Speedway - September 21st,

Autocross Dates-

Mohegan Sun- 4/28, 5/19, 6/30, 7/20, 9/8, 10/6,
10/20

Hartford LAZ- 6/9, 8/11

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Photo by Tony Campano