



# **Pittalk**

# 15 Years 174 Days

## ETHAN GOULART

Youngest Runoffs  
Champion Ever



[PITTALK.ORG](http://PITTALK.ORG) | [NER.ORG](http://NER.ORG)



**Abhi Ghatak**

As I am here writing this for the last time, it gives me time to reflect on the last four years that I have had the privilege to serve as the Regional Executive of this great organization. The past few years have been personally rewarding for me as I learned what it took to run our club, get to know all of our amazing volunteers and make lifelong friendships.

Our club is made up of an amazing group of people who are joined together by a common love of motorsports. The New England Region is the third largest SCCA region in the country with one of the biggest rosters of events. We are financially healthy and continue to grow. We have a great board of directors for 2025 who represent all of our different programs.

As my parting message, I would like to ask our members to consider volunteering to help run our different programs. Whether you participate in road race, solo or rally, running these programs takes a lot of effort and we can always use help.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a board member and regional executive.

# FROM THE REs

*Photo by James Ray*



**George Farrar**

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the NER as RE for 2025. I'm excited to work with a mostly new board ( 6 of 10 ), which includes at least

one member from every program including workers within NER. My main goal is to continue with ways to drive volunteerism and find a member who would like to lead the RAL program. It will also be on my list to train/prep a member for the position of RE for 2026 as this is the last year of my 6 year term limit. The most important thing I would like to accomplish for the year is that every driver and worker goes home safe and healthy. See you at the track!

## REGION DIRECTORY

### 2025 NER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- CRE - Peter Morrison - [morrisonpeter47@gmail.com](mailto:morrisonpeter47@gmail.com)

## 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. Please thank all of these amazing photographers and support their services when looking for images.

The Cover Photo is of the Runoffs National Champion Ethan Goulart, and courtesy of **Jon Krolewicz**.

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## MERCHANDISE



Looking for stickers, 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 are also available **FOR FREE** to members. Contact **Donna Stevens** who can assist with all NER merchandise needs.

**NER.org/merch**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letters from the Regional Executives	<b>02</b>
Strong 'N Healthy	<b>04</b>
Boston Auto Show	<b>06</b>
\$18,604 for RAL	<b>07</b>
Region Awards	<b>08</b>
35 Teens Learn Street Skills	<b>09</b>
Member Anniversaries	<b>10</b>
Youth Triumphs	<b>12</b>
Trackside Experience	<b>14</b>
NERRC Road Racing Champions	<b>16</b>
Midwest Runoffs	<b>18</b>
Solo Recap	<b>20</b>
Wild West Showdown	<b>22</b>
RX & Road Rally Champions	<b>24</b>
Twice as Good	<b>25</b>
NER Gifts TSMP Bench	<b>27</b>
2025 Schedules	<b>28</b>
NER Hosts AED/CPR Class	<b>31</b>

# STRONG 'N HEALTHY

## The Keys to NER's Strength as a Region

As the oldest SCCA region, New England is also categorized as a jumbo region. With over 2600 members, we currently sit as the third largest in the country. Our size allows us to offer a full range of events across all available program areas in the SCCA ecosystem. From wheel-to-wheel Majors competition and regional club racing, to local and Pro Solo/National Tour autocrossing, Road Rally and RallyCross events, as well as HPDE days with Track Night in America and Time Trials - we offer it all. Over the course of a year, our region easily puts on at least 60 weekends of events. All organized, staffed and facilitated solely by volunteers.

Now considering that over the last five years there has been a global pandemic and record inflation, both of which hit pocketbooks that typically drive down attendance and participation, NER has seen the reverse. Instead, our programs continue to grow and are in remarkably strong positions. Why is this? What are the features and factors that keep our region healthy and growing?

### Track Relationships and Development

NER is blessed to have many motorsports venues within our boundaries. But it is the program boards and leadership teams that have done fantastic jobs of maintaining the relationships with track and facility owners that allow us to continue to use those facilities. Plus, those teams also have the foresight to develop new relationships. Solo has expanded to the Brunswick Airport to offer ProSolo and National Tour events, and within the last few years the RallyCross program has added 508INTL and Glove Hollow Christmas Tree Farms to the list of venues where we can hold events. Losing a track can end a racing program. Maintaining these relationships with track management is definitely a key to success.

### Developing and Supporting Novice and Entry Programs

NER understands that growth requires finding and bringing in new blood, and then supporting those newbies once they've dipped their toes into the pond. Our Solo program has always had an extremely strong Novice program that is designed to retain novice participants and integrate them into the club. TNiA has opened the doors to HPDE participants and funnelled them into not only SCCA memberships, but all the way

into Solo, Rally and even Club Racing participation as well. Our CRE program is probably one of the strongest and most versatile in the country. NER offers four events a year at two different tracks.

From a worker perspective, last year the region launched a Recruiting team dedicated to finding and developing ways to build the volunteer worker program for the club racing specialties. They promoted the club at the Boston Auto Show, track days, car shows, clubs, and colleges. Then they organized a one-day Trackside Experience "worker showcase" event. In 2025, they'll be offering two of these events. In turn, the F&C and EMS leaders annually host a Flag & Fire school to train and re-fresh new workers, keeping them engaged and current on the latest rules, guidelines and new technologies like Flagtronics.

Additionally, the region actively supports crossover racing. Rally drivers run Solo events. Club racing guys run Rally. Solo drivers do Road Rally. TNiA and Time Trials get encouraged to try Solo or sign up for a CRE. It's not "find a lane and stick to it". It's "join our club and then come try it all".

### Community Partnerships

NER also recognizes we are not the only game in town. It's better to work together, and create and curate an image of an organization ready and willing to work with others. This includes community outreach events like the Tire Rack Street Survival School for teen driving safety. It also includes co-hosting events as we do regularly with CART for Time Trials and the BMW Club for Solo.



### Bang for the Buck

With the economy being what it is, drivers increasingly want to go where they feel they are getting the most for their time and dollars. And our club racing program delivers exceptionally well on that front. The proof is in the numbers. In 2024, there were 1059 entries in NERRC races. That is the third most of any region in the country. The only two regions with higher total car counts for the year are San Francisco and Central Florida. (Now consider that those race seasons run much longer given their locations and climates. If we ran January to December...?)

As mentioned before, the CRE program is a key differentiator in our club racing success. It's an easy, cost-effective way to streamline new drivers into the wheel-to-wheel competition pipeline. Our schedules are purposely designed to maximize track time and provide the most races in a weekend. Plus, our regional program is actively adapting and adding new classes. Last year, FVR was added and became the 3rd largest overall class the same year. We also offer a variety of tracks, four different venues, with seven weekends of racing.

The region also is not afraid to take chances and think outside the box to give our drivers something new and different. Four years ago, we were the first region to launch and host a night race!

Lastly - we put on great parties. We've got pig roasts! We bring in ice cream trucks! And the now famous Paddock Crawl that's been mimicked at the Runoffs and Solo Nats was the brainchild of our Club Racing program.

### Multi-Pronged Communications

Being the size that it is, with the resources it has at its disposal, NER committed to investing in communications with its members. This included the creation of the Pit Talk website (digital magazine) with its editorial content, the NER.org website, the Constant Contact email distribution lists, the annual printed yearbook, as well as a social media team to monitor and facilitate its many Facebook pages and individual groups. The region knew with so many members, so many events, so many programs and specialties, that coordinated and effective communications was a necessity to reaching and engaging its membership.

### Leadership Development

Within each program and specialty, the leadership reigns have been developed and passed effectively. The Solo Chair knew he would be stepping down, so he spent a full year mentoring his replacements. Similarly the Rally leadership team has recently transitioned. Our stewards are actively involved in many of the national events and programs and able to liaise between our regional volunteers and national staff as needed.

Cumulatively, these paint a picture of a region that is healthy and thriving not because of any one person, or any single team. This is where the sum is truly greater than the parts. Somehow each of these disparate programs, specialties, and events are all brought together through a network of unpaid volunteers using their creativity, ingenuity and love of motorsports to make having #funwithcars a reality and bringing it to a wider audience throughout the northeastern states.



# CONNECTICUT AUTOCROSS & RALLY TEAM

## TIME TRIALS

MAY 18 & OCT 4

## AUTOCROSS

CHECK WEBSITE FOR  
CURRENT DATES



CARTCT.COM  
MOTORSPORTSREG.COM





# BOSTON AUTO SHOW

In January, the Boston Auto Show returned to the Convention and Expo center and NER hosted a large booth promoting all the ways people can have #funwithcars!

This was by far a huge team effort that showcased NER's road racing, rally, solo, and TNIA/time trials programs. We had videos, printed materials that people could take with them, and QR codes to scan and collect info so we could follow-up with people that showed interest.

Huge thanks go to those that took the time out of their schedules to bring their cars for the display. Those drivers were also joined by members who came and volunteered their time to spend hours in the booth answering questions, talking to visitors, and being ambassadors for how amazing SCCA is and why we all spend our hard earned money and valuable free time on this club and sport.

## Trackside Experience

Any time NER has the opportunity to promote our club and the programs we offer, of course it's a worthwhile venture. This year, we had the added advantage of being able to promote our Trackside Experience recruiting event that happened on July 27 (see article on page 10.) The recruiting team collected 59 names and emails of people interested in coming to learn more about volunteering at our road racing events.

Overall, it was a great weekend sharing all the ways people can have fun with SCCA programs. People loved **Dylan Reid** and **Nate Simeon's** dirty rally cars.

(Bringing them covered in dirt was definitely the right call!) **Shawn Pan's** Honda solo car was a huge hit as well. **James Blumental's** pace car with the lights on top also drew lots of attention. And of course, climbing inside a fully built out caged road racing Mini Cooper and Mazda Miata (thanks **Zach Introne** and **Nick Leverone**) was something that drew plenty of smiles from young and old alike.

At it's heart, NER is a family, and this family came together to make this event a great one. Well done.



# \$18,604 FOR RAL

## One-of-a-Kind Helmet Helps Sets All Time RAL Record

Thanks to the donation of a unique, one-of-a-kind helmet from **Alison Turpin**, the RAL fundraiser during our fourth NERRC event at NHMS had a record breaking year bringing in over \$18,000 for the UMass Memorial Medical Center.

The signature auction item was procured by Alison herself, where she collected 15 original signatures from Indy Car drivers, including five Indy 500 Champions!

After a lot of back-and-forth bidding, **Andy Bentinck-Smith** secured the winning bid at \$3400 to claim the helmet. Sharing a moment (that did include some tears with Alison), Andy explained that this weekend was the first time Andy and his two sons were racing together on a track. Being such a momentous occasion, to share his love of racing and competition on track with his two boys, his family purchased the helmet to commemorate the event.

We couldn't think of a more honorable family to send this helmet home with and a deserving tribute for such a unique and treasured keepsake.



# REGION AWARDS

At the NER Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, members that have contributed above and beyond over the course of the year are recognized with one of the following region awards. Please congratulate these individuals for their hard work and devotion to our club.



**Barbara Seeger**  
RE Award

The RE award is presented to a member for extraordinary support of the region. After a torn meniscus 14 years ago, she volunteered to be the region's registration chief, a job that didn't require running. And to this day she is still here helping the club run smoothly. Barbara manages all aspects of Solo registrations, and coordinates everything with regards to trophies and awards.



**Sal Baisley**  
**Tom Kirchmann**  
**David White**  
**Donnie Roberts**  
**Josh Neumann**  
**Mike Petrucci**  
**Allan French**  
**Steve Introne**

## Region Development Award Inaugural Recruiting Team

A new award to recognize those members that initiate and create a program that benefits and grows the region. These members started a brand new team to recruit new volunteers to work club racing events, and organized and hosted the first Trackside Experience this year.



**Kelly Messier**  
Assistant RE Award

The Assistant RE award is presented to a member for unseen support of the region. Kelly joined in 2017 and moved into race control the next year. With a constant smile on her face, she took over as the F&C chief in 2023. She was instrumental in bringing about the digital TRPS system to the worker program.



**Laurie Sheppard**  
Ma & Pa Philbrick Award

This award is presented to the member who has been an outstanding volunteer worker for the region. Laurie began as a grid worker, before eventually working her way around to all the club racing specialties. She eventually ended up in the Stewards chair.



**Kathy Barnes**  
David Morrell Memorial Award

A national award that recognizes an active Steward who has exhibited an outstanding performance and dedication to the sport and its highest principles.

**Doug White**  
**James Blumenthal**  
**Fred White**  
**Ed Hallabeck**  
Gold Pass Recipients



**Dick Patullo**  
Castle-Stone Steward Award

The NE Division Steward of the Year Award for his outstanding performance and contribution.





# 35 TEENS LEARN STREET SKILLS

In July, the Solo program came together with all of the other autocross clubs that call Devens Airfield home to put on a full weekend of **Tire Rack Street Survival Schools**. When finished, 35 new teenager drivers drove away with greater experience in safety training and practical emergency maneuvers that may one day save their lives or even those of the people around them.

This community outreach program is just one way NER and the autocross community is working together to provide a valuable service and resource to the New England area. Our love for motorsports and performance driving skills can help develop young drivers, ultimately creating safer roadways for everyone.

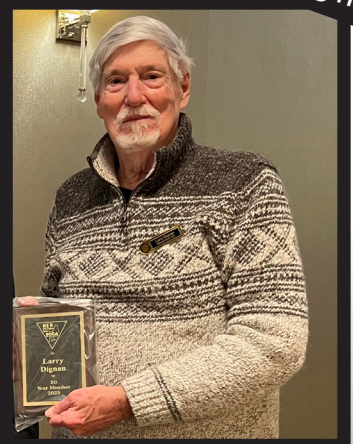
While NER hosted the Saturday school and Boston BMW CCA hosted on Sunday, the in-car instructors,

course workers, and set-up/clean-up crews that participated came from all eight Devens autocross clubs volunteering their time and significant expertise to the effort of teaching teenagers safe-driving habits. The individual school days were split between classroom instruction focusing on those habits and on-course practical seat time with a qualified instructor sitting right-seat at all times to guide each student through the exercises safely. The closed-course nature of the practical driving exercises gave the students the opportunity to safely experience the full range of both what the car, and they themselves, are capable of doing to avoid collisions and to properly handle emergency situations behind the steering wheel.

**Melanie Kwong** and **BMW Justin Chen** led the efforts. **Jerry Papenhausen** assisted both of them with logistical duties, and assisted **Wiley Cox** with teaching the classroom sessions. **Brandon Dryer**, **Emmanuel Cecchet** and **Barb Seeger** were also instrumental.



**SCCA MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**  
Congratulations to the following members for reaching these milestone anniversaries!



**Vicki Capel  
Laurence Dignan  
Robert Iriye  
David Kolb**

Fred Bross  
Edward Capullo  
David Dennis  
Donald Duman  
Michael Ferguson  
Diane Hall  
Edward Hallabeck  
Virginia Hayssen  
David Hyman



Martha McDonough  
Katherine Miskoe  
Philip Mueller  
Peter Perrault  
Alan Sadwin  
Sandy Sadwin  
Myron Steere  
David Woodle

Christine Abbruzzese  
Jeff Adams  
Richard Astacio  
Peyton Baldoni  
John Branscombe  
Wendy Cappola  
Erik Carlson  
Paula Chafe  
Amanda Chichester  
Matthew Chimbolo  
Andrew Chuckta  
Benjamin Chuong  
Roland Clark  
Scott Cypher

Greg Czuba  
Dexter Czuba  
Jose DaSilva  
Brian Doherty  
Jeff Elghanayan  
Ryan Field  
Mark Foley  
Kenneth Fowler  
Matthew Gendron  
Gerard Goulet  
Julie Goulet  
Matthew Gregory  
Gary Hamilton  
Denis Harrington



Nancy Henderson  
Greg Holt  
Luke Horrocks  
Lorenz Jakober  
Murat Ketenci  
William Koscielny  
Peter Lombardo  
George Newkirk  
Kevin O'Day  
Robert Reed  
Doug Reinbold  
Michael Saia  
Jeffrey Segal  
Amy Serra

Robert Shydo  
Jim Soucie  
W. Stine  
Kenneth Suied  
Thomas Tate  
Sam Tocci  
Amanda Twaddle  
Stephen Twaddle  
Tom Venturino  
Nathan Winters  
Andrew Winters  
Nathan Wolsky

Curt Alpha  
Amy Alton  
Tammy Andrew  
Thomas Asson  
Anthony Autiello  
David Barron  
Sheryl Barron  
Cynthia Beachboard  
Timothy Beachboard  
Kevin Behrens  
Stephen Belliveau  
Anker Berg-Sonne  
Sam Bernstein  
Wil Birch  
Kevin Blondin  
Philip Bloom  
Brandon Bogart  
Ronald Brandman  
Christopher Bride  
Adam Brodeur  
Shane Brown  
Marc Buckley  
Gerard Callaghan  
Gerard Callaghan

Michael Canny  
Mark Caraluzzi  
Thomas Cheaney  
Jay Condrick  
Matt Cummings  
Alexander Cunningham  
Kai Curran  
Rachel Curran  
Curtis Daddario  
Robert Davidson  
Christopher DeFlumeri  
Benjamin Detrick  
Elizabeth Detrick  
Brian DiBella  
Mike Dietzel  
Richard Drangmeister  
Jonathan Draper  
Matthew Dunham  
Anthony Ericsson  
Rebecca Ericsson  
Michael Fairbank  
Rob Fantini

Stephen Fayette  
Read Fleming  
Mark Foster  
Chris Franson  
David Fuller  
Daniel Genis  
Timothy Ginalski  
Anton Gurov  
Beck Hamlin  
Jesse Harrington  
Tim Harris  
Joshua Hart  
Andrew Hatano  
Joshua Hendrickson  
Michael Henry  
Stephen Holmquist  
Chris Homer  
Stephen Jacobsky  
Steven Johnson  
Wendy Johnson  
MJ Kean  
Omar Khan  
Zakary Konstantino  
Derek Lakin  
Erik Langelius



Jeffrey Langelius  
Robert Langelius  
Steve Laprise  
Michael Leccese  
Debra Leccese  
Christian Leimkuehler  
George LeMoine  
Anthony Leone  
Dawn Leone  
Dominic Leone  
Jeff Leone  
Maria Leone  
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Mark Lewis  
Michael Long  
Scott Lorentzen  
Colin Lyle  
Larry Marks  
Edward Marsh  
Michael Maurice  
Tanya Maynard  
John McGrath  
Adrian Millson  
Robert Moore

Debbie Morin  
Ellen Murphy  
John Nelson  
Alanna Pacelli  
Arthur Partyka  
Mike Petrucci  
Aaron Pettipas  
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Carrie Pluchino  
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Ryan Walsh  
Aidan Welling  
Brendan Welling  
Margaret Welling  
Tristan Welling  
Declan Welling  
Ryan Wilhelm  
David Wilkerson  
Adam Woodruff  
Stephen Yablonski  
Louis Yorio  
Russell Zea

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# YOUTH TRIUMPHS

## At 15, Ethan Goulart Became Youngest Runoffs Champ

The New England Region has been home to more than a few prestigious drivers in our 75-year history, and we have taken pride in launching a few young careers. Another super-star currently in development is **Ethan Goulart**, son of long-time NER racer and member **Elivan Goulart**. This year, Ethan left a significant mark on the SCCA racing world when he became the youngest driver ever to win a SCCA National Championship at the Runoffs at Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI. And he did it in the 45-car Spec Miata field, generally accepted as one of the most competitive and difficult classes to win.

When Ethan crossed the finish line collecting the checkered flag, he was just 15 years and 174 days old. He bested the previous youngest driver, **Neil Verhagen**, by 68 days. "I did not know going into the event I could

be the youngest winner and pole sitter. But I knew it would be close," Ethan explained. "When I found out, it just made the win even more gratifying! I was super amazed."

The race began with the father and son sitting side-by-side on the front row. Dad fell back in the beginning, while Ethan battled it out in the lead pack. Elivan fought back and ended up finishing 4th overall. "I felt shocked, and out of words," Ethan explained about the win. "I knew I won but I was just amazed and couldn't believe it. This was a huge achievement. I was screaming when I crossed the line that we are National Champions then when I entered the back straight on the cool down lap, I actually cried in my helmet with excitement and did doughnuts in turn 5!"

For dad, who is just as competitive, not finishing first is admittedly "bittersweet." Elivan adds, "I want to win, but if I don't, then I don't feel like the first loser! But truly, it feels special to do it together and I'm sure years down the road it will mean even more than it already



*Photos by Jon Krolewicz*



does now. I'm focused on helping him pursue his career in racing and he's had some great momentum thus far at only 15 years of age."

### Advice for Young Drivers

As a high-school student in Connecticut where the minimum age to obtain a driver's license is 16, young Ethan could not even drive himself to and from the track for the event. His experience leading up to the Runoffs came from years spent in the karting world, before he transitioned into Miatas.

"Focus on Karting to build your race craft, try not to get too caught up in all the big national races unless you can truly afford it. Focus on doing different tracks and racing some different people. Once you feel ready and at least 13-14, get some guidance and run a Spec Miata or something similar that is competitive and cost effective," dad advises.

Ethan adds, "My advice for other young drivers is don't rush it and let it come to you. Don't try to be a superstar in your first couple races. Learn. Talk to experienced people around the paddock and learn from them as well. Always remember when behind the wheel to take deep breaths and stay calm."

When it comes time to move up into wheel-to-wheel club racing, nothing is a substitute for seat time and experience. "Another challenge with my age being so young was limited experience. I overcame this by keeping my focus every day and reviewing data and video every session."

### What's Next

The future is obviously wide open for Ethan. Dad is looking forward to a rematch at Road America in 2025. Ethan will continue to race his Spec Miata in the MX-5 series and had a great kick-off to the season at Daytona in January.

He also just announced plans to run a full GR Cup series with SRO Motorsports America, partnering with the TechSport Racing team.

"I want to thank my dad, mom and whole family. Krugspeed Racing, Kessler Engineering, Planet Miata, SCDA Track Days, DLTC Equipment, Race Magic, Vincent Auto Body, Final Turn Motorsports, Mazda Motorsports, Hoosier Racing Tire, NER Region, and SCCA," Ethan concluded. As his local regional racing family, NER is excited to watch this young man and his racing career as it takes off. Race hard and play safe.

## President's Cup Winner NE Div Driver of the Year

Ethan was also recognized both nationally and divisionally with the President's Cup and the NE Division Driver of the Year awards.

Originally presented by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and now presented by current and past SCCA presidents, the President's Cup recognizes the driver demonstrating ability, competitiveness, and success at the National Championship Runoffs.

The NE Division Driver of the Year goes to someone who earned either that Runoffs success, or who did so in the Hoosier Super Tour series. An unwritten rule of never being given to the same person twice, it can stay in the family. Ethan now he joins his father as a recipient of both the SCCA President's Cup and NE Driver of the Year awards.



# TRACKSIDE EXPERIENCE

## 20 New Workers Learn About Club Racing Volunteering

Ask any SCCA region across the country, and the need for volunteer workers is a growing concern. Where road racing events used to have four or five workers staffing each turn, now many times F&C chiefs are struggling to cover every flag station with at least two, sometimes settling for a single worker at a rare turn that can be manned with just one. Timing and Scoring has become more automated with computerized systems, but still need people who know how to operate those systems; and can then fix them and provide back-ups if they go offline. Trained tech inspectors and registration officials are stretched thin. Grid and pits are at the bare minimums. Race Administration (hospitality) tend to be the same people always stepping up to fill the need.

And as these dedicated, long-term volunteers age and become unable to continue working as much or as often as they did in the past, the number of newer and younger faces showing up to fill the spots has not been at the pace our club needs. The “graying” of SCCA has been, and continues to be, a real concern – particularly in the volunteer worker fields.

Addressing this need became the focus of a Recruiting team **Steve Introne**, Assistant RE for the New England Region, formed and led this last year. How can we attract new volunteers? Engage them in all the ways they can get involved in our volunteer specialties? Hook them on it? Then keep them coming back?

Joining him on the team were NER members **Salvatore Baisley, Mike Petrucci, Tom Kirchman, Josh Neumann, Donnie Roberts, Roger French and David White**. One year ago they began brainstorming ideas on how to achieve those goals. Ultimately, they settled on the idea of hosting a one-day recruiting event to showcase everything worker related – and called it Trackside Experience. Then the planning began.



### What is Trackside Experience?

It became clear, the team needed a way to let potential workers see, hear, feel and experience each of the opportunities to get involved at the track. SCCA has always offered On The Job (OTJ) training to new volunteers. But we've usually required newbies to commit to a single specialty for the entire day or weekend. For this event, attendees get to try them all.

For the first half of the day, during the morning sessions, the entire group made the rounds and visited all areas of the track. This allowed them to also get the lay of the land, as for many, this was their first time ever even being at a road race event! Each specialty chief gave a brief explanation of what they did, and the roles and responsibilities of the workers. Then after lunch, every person was able to pick their two favorites and go try them out for a couple sessions. F&C people were put to work waving flags on corners, tech people helped



weigh cars on scales, T&S did taping of cars as back-ups, and those that went to the grid assisted with arranging cars for the starts of the afternoon races.

This truly was a way to see it all and experience it all.

Scheduled during NER's annual Racing Against Leukemia weekend at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, all participants were then invited to stay for the dinner and party at the end of the day, and even watch and join in the fundraising raffle/auction to support the UMass Memorial Medical Center if they wanted to. Lunch was provided, as well as snacks and water throughout the day. Free temporary weekend memberships were processed for each of the attendees (and NER's Worker Incentive Program was explained, where new volunteer workers can earn a free one-year SCCA membership.)

### The Results

20 potential new workers attended the Trackside Experience event on Saturday, July 27. For a program that had never been attempted before, and was put together with a limited budget and nothing but region volunteers – it is safe to say that was an extremely successful turnout.

However, getting those 20 attendees to the track took a significant amount of work and effort. Multiple avenues to promote, bring awareness, and get sign-ups were utilized. This included attending the Boston Auto Show, TNiA events, track days (MassTuning), car shows, and working with trade schools, college and universities.

Everyone who showed up stayed for the dinner and were able to socialize with other racers and workers at the Saturday night party. A couple purchased full SCCA memberships before leaving for the day, and a few came back to work again on Sunday! With half the season still to go, 4 attendees came back and volunteered at additional races.

### Plans for 2025

Given the success of the first event, the team is planning to repeat it and host two more during the 2025 season. The first will be on May 24 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and the second on August 15 at Thompson Speedway.



Current NER members and workers can help by spreading the word to friends and family, while also promoting the events within their circles of influence to get new attendees. Then on the days of, the team is always in need of help with guides, and those that can explain specialties to the attendees. If you can support in these areas, or are interested in helping the team in general, reach out to [Recruiting@NER.org](mailto:Recruiting@NER.org).

### Huge Thanks

Lastly, saying THANK YOU to this Recruiting team just does not do them justice. So often people like to point out flaws or weaknesses, but rarely step up to make things better. Every person on this team volunteered to be a part of it. Besides Steve, none of them are Board of Directors members, or hold leadership positions in our region. They are just regular NER members that responded when Steve stood up at our Annual Meeting and said we needed to do something to address worker recruiting, who would help?

These are the people that make a difference. They've done the hard work this last year, and have laid a groundwork. SCCA National is asking for details, NEDiv is wanting the team to present so their regions can take note. What they've done matters, and we should be proud of our region for fostering this type of growth.

**2025 Dates**  
**Trackside Experience**  
**May 24 - NHMS**  
**August 15 - TSMP**



# TRACKSIDE EXPERIENCE

July 27, 2024 | New Hampshire Motor Speedway

# NERRC ROAD RAC



B-Spec: Steve Introne



C-Spec: Jim Cutler



EP: Jennifer Ferreira



FA: Bill Argyle



GT2: Glenn Kurkjian



IT7: Ian Johnson



ITA: Brendan Frain



ITB: Jeff Andrews



SM2: John Raudat



SRF: Jeremy Randall



SRF3: Ethan Bentinck-Smith



SSM: Tim Canfield





# RACING CHAMPIONS

Photos by James Ray



FP: John Raudat



FV: Michael Hinkle



FVR: Tom Kenney



GT1: Doug Valley



ITS: Justin Auger



P2: Paul Omichinski



SE30: Nicolas Andre



SM: Christian Sarnecki



STL: Peter Tonelli II



T1: Dave Maynard



T2: Maurizio Cerasoli



T3: Colin Duffy



T4: Jason Benagh

The 2024 New England Road Racing season culminated after a 7 race season. This included an extra race at Palmer, our annual event at Lime Rock, but with only one race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway this year, that meant we had lots of track time with three weekends at Thompson Speedway. After all the points were totalled, 25 drivers earned a Championship trophy for 2024.

Unlike in 2023 where we had multiple back-to-back repeat winners with 2022, the 2024 season saw turnover in every class for that first place finish. The one exception being **Doug Valley** in GT1, who just is a permanent fixture atop the podium.

While **Tom Kenney** won FVR, props needs to go to **Charles Doherty** who lost the title by a single point (312 to 311.) Another close battle was between **Hans Morris**, who took second in SE30 by just eleven points behind **Nicolas Andre** (345 or 334.)

For 2024, club racing saw the addition of the SMT, SMX, FVR and C-Spec classes. As a new class, FVR had 43 participants, making it the third largest class overall in all of club racing behind just SM (67 drivers) and SRF3 (44 drivers). In total, NER had 1059 entries in 2024, which goes to show just how strong our road racing program continues to be in the northeast.

Heading into the 2025 season, we return to hosting two events at NHMS, and are excited to be back there.

# MIDWEST RUNOFFS

## SCCA Returns to Road America for Championships

SCCA returned to Road America for the 60th anniversary of the National Championship Runoffs. With more than 500 drivers arriving at the 4.048-mile, 18-turn circuit in Wisconsin, the stage was set for some heated competition to claim the trophies.

Making history, was New England Region's **Ethan Goulart**. At 15 years and 174 days old, Ethan became the youngest driver to win a SCCA Runoffs, and he did it in one of the most competitive of classes – Spec Miata (see article on page 12.)

But that wasn't the first history making event for SM that week. If you remember, last year SM had the first ever co-National Champions when the top two drivers tied at the finish line crossing in a photo finish together. This year, SM had another tie for the record books. Ethan and his father, **Elivan Goulart**, tied for the top qualifying time and Pole Position for the race. Tied down to the thousandths of a second – 2:41.106! To determine whether father or son claimed the P1 position to start the race, officials had to revert to the second fastest qualifying time, which went to the younger Goulart.

The SM race was one of the highlights of the week, however it was tainted with the loss of top drivers **Jim Drago, Danny Steyn and Charles Mactutus** who were involved in a serious incident during qualifying. All three drivers have recovered, thankfully.

### Beautiful Weather but Messy Racing

Over the course of the 10 days of testing, practice, qualifying and racing – the skies over Wisconsin remained clear and sunny – meaning drivers kept their rain gear and rain tires packed away. Towards the end of the week, the wind picked up, which dropped and cooled the temperatures. Unfortunately, even dry



**Stephen and Raymond Blethen in their matching Mazda T4 RX-8s**

tracks could not prevent some of the messy racing that was seen throughout the week. From practice to racing, the number of incidents on track – both small and big – left way too many cars and drivers damaged. The yellow flags, full-course cautions, and pace car sessions were far too high for championship racing. Post-event discussions of the causes, and how to remedy the situation before the 2025 Runoffs next year as the event returns to Road America, are discussions stewards and race directors are having. Too many of the races ended with the pace car taking the checker flag.

All that said, of the 23 NER drivers that took the time to travel to Road America to compete, 11 of them (almost half) came home with Top 10 finishes. Another fantastic showing by our club racing program.

Beyond drivers, there were 16 NER members that travelled out to spend the week volunteering as well.

## Justin Adakonis Wins SMX Super Tour Championship



The Runoffs was also the conclusion to the 2024 Spec MX-5 presented by Toyo Tires Super Tour season. Another young driver making a splash this week from the New England Region was **Justin Adakonis**. In his SMX, he not only finished on the Runoffs podium with a 3rd place trophy, he also claimed the 2024 Spec MX-5 SCCA Super Tour Championship at the same time. With five wins to his name in this incredibly competitive field, Justin took home a grand prize of \$30,000, courtesy of Mazda Motorsports.

**Nick Leverone's Flatout Motorsports** was awarded the PAGID Racing Crew Member of the Year for their outstanding contributions to Spec MX-5. Flatout has been a leading team in SMX since it was its own Championship series.

## Top 10 Finishes

**AS - Thomas West - 4th Place**

**FE2 - Jim Reagan - 7th Place**

**GT2 - A. Sterling Cole - 10th Place**

**GTL - Chris Copley - 7th Place**

**P1 - Matthew Gendron - 5th Place**

**SM - Elivan Goulart - 4th Place**

**SMX - Justin Adakonis - 3rd Place**

**T1 - Hugh Stewart - 5th Place**

**T1 - Ronald Lombardo - 7th Place**

**T4 - Raymond Blethen - 4th Place**

## Joseph Stadelmann Steward of the Year

An active driver, Joe is described as exceptionally thorough and prepared, bringing his driver experience and perspective to his Stewarding work. His insight and ability to analyze on-track situations allows him to communicate with drivers in a way that leaves them with a better understanding and assessment of all points of view. We're very proud of this national recognition of Joe's hard work and the value he brings to the Steward program in our region, and the Super Tour program that he's been supporting.

**SCCA**  
**WORKER OF THE YEAR**

PRESENTED BY:



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*Photos by Jacob Ronald*

# 2024 SOLO RECAP

For the 2024 NER Autocross season, there were 8 points events scheduled to kick off the year. The first one ended up being canceled due to an unexpectedly large snow storm. After all the points were tallied at the end, 25 drivers earned NER Championship trophies for their respective classes this season. NER Co-Chair **Will Koscielny**, excitedly raced to his first Stirling Moss trophy as well.

For the second time, NER hosted a ProSolo event at Brunswick, ME and our first National Tour Event the weekend after. There were 133 competitors for the ProSolo and 73 for the Tour. With the Tour being less subscribed, that allowed for a unique tour format. Our course designers ran an AM and PM course on Saturday and then allowed the participants to vote on what everyone would run on Sunday. The PM course won out and the combined times from all three sessions determined the winners!

The 51st Solo Nationals took place in Lincoln, Nebraska. We had about 20 members travel out and the region came home with three national championships, 8 trophies, and the sportsmanship award went to **Josh Brockman** for lending out his car to a fellow competitor.

We also hosted a Tire Rack Street Survival school at Devens. We had about 35 students. Autocrossers became instructors to teach teen drivers car control in unpredictable situations based on handling limits. (See article on page 9.)

This year the Solo program also hosted its first Interclub Challenge event. This was a fun and silly event where we combined a bunch of rules from all the clubs. For example, sessions included rally cross scoring, all times cumulative, off course 10+ seconds, morning and afternoon courses, no course walks, course drive thru, pizza for lunch, and a cone challenge to allow drivers to remove cones from their times if they could flip a cone and have it land upright. The event was such a success, the Interclub Challenge will definitely be back for the 2025 season.

Finally, in November, Solo hosted a community clean up in the town of Ayer where our autocross site is. Members took our autocross cars throughout the town to pick up trash around the streets, public parks and local schools. This small day of service was one way to give back to a community that has allowed us to come and have #funwithcars on so many weekends.



**Street Categories**

**SS**  
Jeff Bakken

**AS**  
David Thomas

**BS**  
William Koscielny

**CS**  
Barbara Seeger

**DS**  
Matthew Mickle

**ES**  
Charles Sinkler

**FS**  
Ralph Zajac

**GS**  
John Swig

**HS**  
Josh Brockman

**STH**  
William Platt

**STS**  
Eric Scholz

**STX**  
James Fiske

**STR**  
Brad Fiore

**STU**  
Nathan Draper

**Prepared & Modified Categories**

**SSP**  
Brendan Wong

**CSP**  
George Farrar

**CAMS**  
Stephanie Reeve

**EP**  
Paul Krysiak

**FP**  
Trevor Frey

**CSM**  
Brian Kuehl

**BM**  
Tamra Krystinik

**XA**  
Shawn Pan

**XB**  
Brandon Dryer

**CLUB SPEC MIATA**  
John Frongillo

**PRO**  
Evan LeBlanc



*Evan LeBlanc Passes the Stirling Moss Trophy to 2024 Winner Will Koscielny*

**2024 Champions at the NER Banquet**



# WILD WEST SHOWDOWN

## NER Wins 3 National Championships at Solo Nats

36 car classes competed September 3-6, 2024 at Lincoln Airpark in Nebraska's capital city, and three NER members – **Billy Davis**, **Mark Daddio**, and **Ginette Jordan** – returned back to the northeast with Championship titles, while seven other members came home with trophies in their saddle bags. Additionally, our own Josh Brockman was recognized with the Sportsmanship Award. The week was highlighted by great weather, tons of fun, close competition, and new to this year, a Chuckwagon Challenge.

As always, SoloNats competition is never decided on Day 1. It is the final runs that determine the winners. Heading into Day 2 in Street Touring R (STR) Billy Davis held a small advantage over **Daniel McCelvey**. In fact, the Solo Matters team pointed out that these two drivers had just a .014 second difference between themselves if you add together their times over the last three years! In the end, Billy bested Daniel by just 0.197 seconds to take the 2024 Championship title.

Last year's 7th place DS finisher, but 13-time National Champion Mark Daddio, came with unfinished business this year. After day 1, he had a 0.139 second lead over **Alex Piehl**. And even that was tenuous, since **Alex Muresan** was lurking just 0.090 seconds behind in third. A 59-car field meant those three had numerous other very talented drivers all hot on their heels trying to over-take them. Just barely holding on to the top spots after the first day runs, however, Mark did what he came to do. That lead ended up cut in half, but he held it. After all the runs were completed, he stood atop that huge DS podium field with the Championship trophy and only a 0.071 difference over 2nd place Alex Piehl.

Lastly, Ginette Jordan may have been the only competitor in her FSPL class, but that didn't mean she wasn't out there still having the time of her life tearing up cones and racing her heart out. Congrats to Ginette on another great season in her "Lambobunny" Rabbit. We all want to be just like you when we grow up.

### Super Street

Pat Salerno – 8th Place

### B Street

Will Koscielny – 7th Place

### H Street

Josh Brockman – 3rd Place

### Super Street Touring

Mark Ponusky – 3rd Place

### Street Modified

Todd Kean – 3rd Place

### B Modified

Tamra Krystinik – 4th Place

### Club Spec Mustang

Shawn Pan – 5th Place

### C Mod

Jim Garry – 4th Place



Photo by Jon Krolewicz

## 2024 Solo National Champions



Street Touring R  
Billy Davis



F Street Prepared Ladies  
Ginette Jordan



D Street  
Mark Daddio

# SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

After twenty attempts at the National Championships, **Kinch Reindl** was in the hunt for his first ever title when he started suffering car problems.

NER's **Josh Brockman** stepped in trying to help bring about a fix. When working together did not resolve the issues with Kinch's car, Josh offered up his own Honda for Reindl to use on his final runs. Behind the wheel of Josh's car, Kinch captured his first National Championship in H Street.

For this act, Josh was recognized with the Sportsmanship Award at the Solo Nationals event. This is just one of many examples where the love of motorsports and camaraderie is the driving force behind our club.



# SEASON CHAMPS

# RALLYCROSS & ROAD RALLY

## 2024 RallyCross

S RWD: George Farrar  
S FWD: Vernon Dolezel  
SAWD: Clifton Kangas  
M RWD: Kathy Moody  
M FWD: Stephanie Reeve  
MAWD: Nathan Simeon  
P FWD: Dmitry Beliaev  
P AWD: Chris Regan



## 2024 Road Rally

Road Rally Driver: Chris Regan  
Road Rally Navigator: Dmitry Beliaev

GTA Driver: Kelli Lamkins  
GTA Navigator: Jon Lamkins

Rally of the Year: Hurdle 2024 GTA  
Rallymasters: The Lamkins Family







# TWICE AS GOOD

## Two 2nd Place RallyCross National Trophies

Long-time RallyCross Nationals competitors from the New England Region - **Warren Elliott**, **Hal Denham**, and **Vaughn Micciche** - all traveled south to Alabama this year to compete in the 18th running of the RX Nationals.

After three days of weather that was colder than what was here in Northeast, Warren and Vaughn both finished with 2nd Place trophies in Modified All Wheel Drive (MAWD) and Modified Rear Wheel Drive (MRWD) respectively. Hal rounded out their finishes with a 4th Place finish in Prepared All Wheel Drive (PAWD).

### The Courses

"The courses were smooth and fast, on 33 acres of a former cotton field in the northeast corner of Alabama," said Hal. "Friday afternoon's course was to the south of grid, just under a half mile of flowing offsets, sweeping turns and a decreasing radius 180 degree turn toward a sweeping finish. Saturday morning's course was to the north of the grid, nearly six tenths of a mile with more offsets, sweepers and slalom features leading up to another decreasing radius turn to finish." He continued, "Saturday afternoon we returned to the south course with a few minor changes. Sunday's course (0.76 miles) was a combination of most of the south course connected to most of the north course run in the reverse direction."

### The Finishes

For Warren, a multi-time National Champion, he had not driven the infamously known "BWM" in 2 years so he admits it took him a run on each course to get up to pace. With a 1.8 second deficit with 2 runs left, he made up 1.5 and left .3 on the table, leaving him in that 2nd place position. "I'm not disappointed at all! I enjoy driving well and the good competition. This wouldn't be

possible without Hal getting me there and listening to me for 32 hours." Hal was sitting in 2nd place himself until Sunday, when he laments everything started to fall off a bit, leaving him with this 4th place finish. No regrets on his part either as he thought it was a great weekend too.

**Fun fact: Warren and Hal have attended 17 of the 18 RX Nats events!**

The 2nd place winning Porsche Vaughn drove had been sitting for four years, while he himself has been out of the game for over two with life getting in the way. With just a few weeks, he pulled it all together to compete. Once there, the weekend was hit even with all the things that could go wrong, going wrong. But despite all that, he still finished the weekend popping a champagne bottle!





Bruce Turk in his '61 Saab 96 2-stroke engine, former stage rally car.

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# North Atlantic Racing Academy

(formerly known as The Miata School at Thompson)

## Earn Your Learners Permit in 1 Day!

- Wednesday, April 30, 2025
- Wednesday, May 28, 2025
- Monday, June 16, 2025
- Tuesday, July 15, 2025
- Wednesday, August 27, 2025
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025
- Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Contact Lou Gingerella: 860-460-0930  
[NorthAtlanticRacingAcademy.com](http://NorthAtlanticRacingAcademy.com)

NARA is hosting a limited number of one-day race school events for the upcoming season.

Sign up today to reserve your spot.  
Each class is limited to 8 students.

Investment: \$2,100 *includes car rental*



# NER GIFTS TSMP BENCH

## Celebrating 75 Years of Racing Together

SCCA, NER and Thompson Speedway all trace their origins back to the late 1940's and this northeast corner of the United States. Thompson Speedway has the honor of being the first purpose-built racetrack (not a public road or airport runway) in the US for auto enthusiasts to race their cars. And the New England Region was the first sanctioning body to organize and host that event.

Now, three quarters of a century later, this long-standing partnership continues to be a mutually beneficial and thriving relationship between track owners, management, and our club racers and organizers.

To honor this, the region purchased a teak bench with a commemorative plaque, to sit outside the race offices of the track and be a permanent reminder of this long-standing history. Then on Saturday of our NERRC

Championship weekend event, **Kathy Barnes** led a brief ceremony dedicating the bench and sharing the history of the region and track with the racers, crew, friends and family that were in attendance.

**Abhi Ghatak**, NER RE, presented the bench to track managers **Lou Gingerella** and **Scott Mayo**. Scott took the opportunity to thank the region for the gift, and the years of working together to put on fabulous events, which has now evolved beyond just road racing, as the speedway is host to many Time Trials and Track Night in America events as well throughout the year.

The next time you're at TSMP, stop by the offices and rest a spell on this bench. Take a few minutes to look around, realizing just how much auto racing history has passed in this specific location. And if you're sitting on that bench, you are now a part of it as well.



In Appreciation for all the years working with  
New England Region, SCCA

# 2025 SCHEDULES

The Solo, Rally, and Club Racing boards have released the following schedules for the 2025 season. Some dates are tentative and may change. Please visit the schedule pages on the NER.org website for the most current information and links to registration, supps, and all event details.

## ROAD RACING

**[NER.org/2025-NERRC-Schedule](https://ner.org/2025-NERRC-Schedule)**

**April 11**  
Thompson Drivers School

**May 24-25**  
#1 Neil MacArthur Memorial  
Opening Weekend + CRE  
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

**June 13-14**  
#2 Paddock Crawl  
Lime Rock Park

**July 5**  
#3 Midnight Madness + CRE  
Thompson Speedway

**July 26-27**  
#4 RAL + CRE  
New Hampshire Motor Speedway

**August 15-16**  
#5 Last Chance Majors  
Thompson Speedway

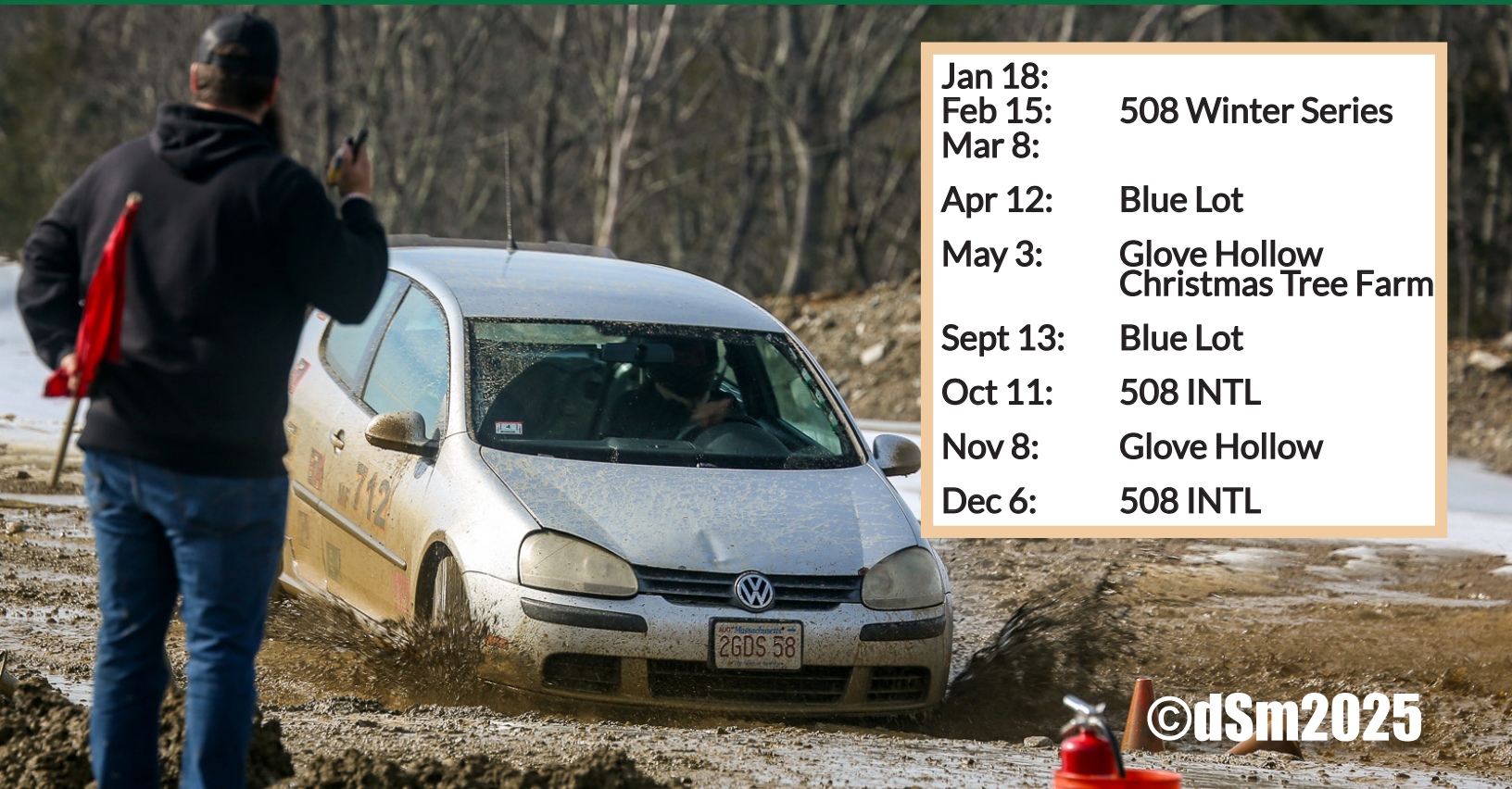
**September 6-7**  
#6 Pig Roast + CRE  
Palmer Motorsports Park

**October 17-18**  
#7 Championship Weekend  
Thompson Speedway

*Photo by James Ray*



# RALLYCROSS



Jan 18:	
Feb 15:	508 Winter Series
Mar 8:	
Apr 12:	Blue Lot
May 3:	Glove Hollow Christmas Tree Farm
Sept 13:	Blue Lot
Oct 11:	508 INTL
Nov 8:	Glove Hollow
Dec 6:	508 INTL

©dSm2025

[NER.org/2025-Rally-Schedule](https://ner.org/2025-Rally-Schedule)

# ROAD RALLY



Feb 22:	Winter Challenge
Mar 22:	Seacoast Scramble
Apr 5:	Cape Codders Courageous
Aug 2:	RAL GTA
Oct 4:	Hurdle 2024 Regional GTA Road Rally
Nov TBD:	Grab Bag Rally

Photo by James Ray

# AUTOCROSS

[NER.org/2025-Solo-Schedule](http://NER.org/2025-Solo-Schedule)

## POINTS EVENTS

April 13 & 27  
May 11 & 24  
June 14 & 29  
August 17  
September 21

## TEAM CHALLENGE

October 26

## PRO SOLO

June 6-8

*Photo by Jacob Ronald*

## INTERCLUB CHALLENGE

May 31

## NOVICE DRIVING SCHOOL

July 13

## STIRLING MOSS RUNOFF

October 11



# TNIA & TIME TRIALS

[TrackNightInAmerica.com/Events](http://TrackNightInAmerica.com/Events)

[TimeTrials.SCCA.com](http://TimeTrials.SCCA.com)



Lime Rock Park; Lakeville, CT  
April 17, May 8, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 23

Palmer Motorsports Park; Palmer, MA  
June 12, September 4

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park;  
Thompson, CT  
April 29, May 20, June 24, July 17, August 21,  
September 11, October 14



May 18

October 4

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park



# NER HOSTS AED/CPR CLASS

## SCCA Foundation Grant Provides Funding

During the Northeast Division Conference this year, **Peter Villaume** and **David White**, as part of the NER Emergency Services team, learned that the process to apply for a grant from the SCCA Foundation had been streamlined to a simple online form, with quarterly disbursements available to regions.

To take advantage of this opportunity, the ES team put in a request for funding to host a CPR and AED training course, and were awarded the grant. Longtime NER member, **Brandi Shydo**, hosted a hybrid (part-time online learning and then 3 hours hands on learning) course for members from all three of our programs - Solo, Rally and Road Racing, in Manchester, NH on June 2nd.

At the completion of the day, ten NER members, including one younger attendee **Kaelyn Crotty**, age 10, passed the course. According to Kaelyn's mom **Krista Crotty** "She loved it. She watched all the videos over my shoulder when I was prepping, so we figured might as well have her participate! She also wanted to do it, as it also fulfilled a scouting requirement for her." Krista added, "These are good life skills for her - and as we know repetition makes it all stick!"



*Kaelyn Crotty is trained on the AED device.*



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

*Photo by Jacob Ronald*

