

The Tonneau

LAND O'LAKES REGION, SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA



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Summer 2007

REPORT

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Hi everybody, I'll start out this month with a recap of a where we are with BIR. The track isn't certified yet. The Cen-Div people and track management did not reach an agreement in time for us to stage an SCCA sanctioned event as we had planned for September.

Nobody is more disappointed in this outcome than I am. Somehow despite a track owner that wants SCCA there and a Division that wants to race there, an agreement could not be reached. It's a pretty disgusting situation – but it is what it is.

So, where do we go from here? Actually we go to BIR. I believe we will see that BIR will have better luck certifying the new "Club Course" in 2008 than it has had attempting to re-certify the traditional circuit. BIR has already begun work on a portion of that course, near Turn 1, and following the NHRA event in August they will tear into it with

all of their resources.

I recently met with Jed Copham (BIR Owner) and Martyn Thake (Track Designer) and I am very excited about their positive attitudes and plans for the new course. My understanding is that the new course will use the existing T2 through T6. A new 180 degree turn will branch off the existing track prior to Turn 7 (Jed, can we call this the Hansen Hairpin?) and bring the cars towards the infield near "Mom and Pops". A few bends will be added as well as a "main" straight. The Club Course Turn 1 will be a sharp left and I envision that to be a great passing area. The new course merges into the old course at the apex of T1. The entire club course is about 2 miles if I recall correctly.

In addition to work on the track, BIR is working toward expanding in other areas too. In July BIR bought the driving school portion of Donnybrooke Motorsports business. Gary Curtis is now employed by BIR as the Director of the BIR Performance Driving School. The format of the school is currently the same as Donnybrooke's school and

lapping program. Gary plans to expand the school to become an SCCA accredited racing school and also add teen driving and winter driving programs.

I'm still very optimistic about SCCA at BIR, as well as some interesting synergies with Snow States and the local vintage racing club (VSCR). With an open schedule in 2008 we could have quite a few opportunities to play at BIR on a yearly basis.

If you don't see the potential with BIR getting back online you should look at the plans for the LaMonza course planned to be build in northern Iowa, just over the border off I35. This could easily become reality since the developer has the support of the local governing body. That is something that seems to be impossible to do in Minnesota.

As you will see elsewhere in this edition. Snow States is taking over the September 8/9 dates at BIR and is going to hold a very cool event. I hope, once again, that our members can take part in this event and support the "other side" of our club.

(Continued on page 3)

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The Snow States Plow

The first two Snow States events for 2007 are in the books. The Headwaters 1 rally and Shooting Star rally weekend were both a resounding success. We had a tidal wave of positive feedback on both events. They each tried to meet a specific but different demand from our participants.

Headwaters 1 was a one day event within 2 hours of the metro area. The goal was to offer an event that required minimal travel with no overnight stay. The organizing body accomplished that goal and then some. There was an overwhelming turnout of workers despite very few preregistrations. The competitor turnout was light but enough to cover expenses and provide an inflow to the treasury.

The Shooting Star weekend was the opposite end of the format spectrum. It was a two day event that required at least one overnight stay. Thanks to the hotel group deal, the room rate was 25-45 per night if you took advantage of all the incentives, which most did. This event was a little tighter on the worker side but through late recruiting, enough workers showed up to fully staff the event. Thanks to Muscatell Auto Group's sponsorship, all workers receive an event t-shirt and cash drawings for workers and competitors were held at the awards presentation. The Ojibwe Forest Rally also provided cash and discount certificates to give away. Like HW1, Shooting Star also provided income for the club.

The next Snow States event will be a road race, lapping and other special activity event at BIR September 8-9 2007. We are considering a normal format with the addition of some activities that may include drag racing, "flat hillclimb", car control clinic and others. We will need many people to step up to help put on the event so please contact myself or anyone else on the boards of either SSAC or LoL.

See you where cars go fast,
Mark Utecht

The 2007 Fall Festival of Speed, with Jonny Rutherford.

Johnny Rutherford, three-time Indianapolis 500 Winner will be our special guest at the "Fall Festival of Speed" Monday, September 10, 2007 at Brainerd International Raceway (BIR).

You are invited to ride with Johnny Rutherford, in your car, as he takes you for an unforgettable ride at speed through the challenging turns of BIR. Hold your breath as Johnny takes you into turn one at over 100 miles per hour; hold on to your seat as you dart through the "twisties"; then hang on to your helmet as Johnny hammers it out of turn ten on to the front straightaway to do the whole circuit again!

You can bring your own car, rent one of our Spec Racers, or both. This is a one-day event so rides with Johnny Rutherford are of course limited. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come-first-served basis, and this event will sell out!

We encourage you to call **Gary Curtis** immediately for more information and to reserve your ride with Johnny Rutherford at: **866-511-7606 (Toll Free)**.

**Snow States Autosports Club Presents
The Donnybrooke Road Racing Revival 2007**

**Brainerd International Raceway
September 8-9, 2007**

Road Racing

Open to drivers with current competition licenses (SCCA, MC, PCA, NASA, Vintage etc)
Qualify/Race sessions on both Saturday and Sunday.
2 Groups – Production based closed wheel group.
- Open Wheel / Spec Racer group.

Lapping

3 ½ hours of track time over 2 days.
Classroom training session on each day.
Lapping participants can enter the Autocross for no additional charge.

Car Control Clinic Saturday

Learn the basics of high performance car control.
Ideal for entry level drivers.
CCC participants can enter AX following completion of training sessions.

Autocross Saturday – “The Snow States Flatlander Hill Climb”

Start at Turn 2. Finish at Turn 8.
No Pylons – No Bull!
SSAC Award certificates given to top finishers.

Volunteers needed!

Free AX entry to the first 10 corner worker volunteers.
All Volunteers eligible to win a drawing for a \$100 cash prize.

Party – Join your fellow enthusiasts for the SSAC Party Saturday night!!!

Entry Fees:

Racing - \$250
Lapping - \$175
CCC - \$45
AX - \$60

Online Registration will be open soon.

Visit the Land O’ Lakes / Snow States Website for the most recent information.

This event is not sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of America.

KIC Report, by Tom Fuehrer

I finally made time to attend the Kohler International Challenge (formerly the BRIC) at Road America in July. WOW, what an event! There were over 400 vintage cars entered.

Janine and I hung out with several of our local vintage car racers. Thanks to Mike and Stacy Manser for twisting our arm enough to attend the event. I was able to see some cars that I have only read about in magazines. Everything from a Niki Lauda Ferrari F1 car to Turbine powered Can Am cars to several Porsche race cars that I've only dreamed to see in person. See the races and watching them at speed was very special. Maybe someday I'll have an appropriate car to enter myself.

Below are a couple cars that raced at BIR in the past. I've posted a bunch of pictures on my Putfile site at www.putfile.com/racer_tom



Motorsports Memories

Motorsports Memories will return in a future edition - Get Well Soon Harvey!!!!

Help Wanted

Tonneau Contributions.

Do you have an experience that other's would enjoy reading about? Do you have photos of club events that you are willing to share? The Tonneau is always looking for content! Email the editor with any contributions you have.

F+C Workers, Equipment Chief, Tech Inspector Trainee

These positions are the best way to get close to racing without buying a car. Many positions can be learned "on the job" at SCCA or SSAC events.

Project Coordinator – The Gopher Restoration Project

We are still looking for a person to look after our club Icon - The Gopher. wouldn't it be great to see this old freind up and running at BIR someday? Some window replacement, a fluid change and a little TLC will get it up and running. This would be a great father/son project - anybody out there want to lend a hand?

Ad Manager

We have identified the need to have a person who can coordinate advertizements in the Tonneau as well as ad space on our Web-site. Contact the Tonneau editor for more details.

Event Calendar

Ojibwe Forests Rally – August 24 & 25, Bemidji, MN

Test & Tune (Solo) – Saturday, August 25 – Winona

LOL Champ. Solo – Sunday, August 26 – Winona

Donnybrooke Road Racing Revial 2007- September 8th-9th - BIR.

45th Annual Oktoberfest Solo – Sunday, September 23, LaCrosse

Test & Tune (Solo) – Saturday, October 6 – Winona

LOL Champ. Solo – Sunday, October 7 – Winona

Tombstone Trails Rally – Saturday, October 27

SCCLAC Annual Banquet – Saturday, November 10 – La Crosse

Awards Banquet – Saturday, January 5, 2008



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Upcoming LOL / SSAC Membership Activities

SSAC brings you the Donnybrooke Road Racing Revival 2007
Road Races, Lapping, Hillclimb and Car Control Clinic
Brainerd International Raceway
September 8/9 2007

Check the LOL website for last minute additions/corrections to the calendar.
www.scca-lol.org



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