

# Northwestern Ohio Region Sports Car Club of America

## Clutch Chatter

Vol 7, December, 2009

### Northwestern Ohio Regional News:

- I need to start off with an apology to Jeff Mabrey for not noting in the last Clutch Chatter that he had also received a trophy at Nationals in the very competitive ST class. Jeff finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of 38. The top 20 in this class were only separated by about 2 seconds after the first day. Jeff showed his superior driving skills on a challenging second day course moving up about 5 places.
- We still need volunteers for many positions needed to keep the organization running smoothly. Contact any current official if you are interested in helping out. There are still many positions that are unfilled at this time. This is an excellent way to get involved in the club and learn what is required to run events and keep things going.
- The 2010 NWOR officials: Regional Executive: Bryan Rawlins, Treasurer: Charina Hansen, Points keeper/Webmaster: Larry Kurtz, Corresponding Secretary: Lee Franz, Recording Secretary: Elaine Christmas, Continuing Director-At-Large: Mark Sommer, Incoming Director-At-Large: Robert Christmas. The list of appointed positions is as follows: Solo Chairs: Bryan Rawlins & Greg McCance, Worker Chief: Hilary Anderson, Historian: Phil Schmidt, Public Affairs: Gail Peery Tech Chief: John Souder, Timing and Scoring: Robert Christmas, Grid Chief: Dax Bushmeyer.
- The Year End Banquet was enjoyed by all that attended. A special thanks to Charina Hansen for setting everything up. The food and disc jockey worked out well. Unfortunately, Charina was unable to attend do to illness. We all hope she is feeling better. Robert Christmas was Master of Ceremonies for the event, giving a state of the club and presenting trophies to all the class and event winners that were in attendance. Those receiving special year end awards at the banquet were:

Most Improved: Johnny Rose  
NWOR Solo National Driver of the Year: John Fessler  
Solo Driver of the Year: Greg McCance  
Best Solo Event: August 30<sup>th</sup> event at Airport – Robert Christmas Chair  
Solo Event Award: Bryan Rawlins  
Lynn Richie Award: Hilary Anderson  
Activities Award: Charina Hansen  
Regional Executive Award: Lee Franz  
Jack Burns Extra Mile Award: John Bradbury

### National News

- Wayne Zitkus is going to be inducted into the SCCA Hall of Fame. Wayne is the second NWOR member to be inducted into the Hall. Roger E. Johnson has also been given this distinguished award. I know all NWOR members would like to congratulate Wayne for achieving this high level of distinction. Well done and thank you for all you have done for the SCCA and our Region. The induction ceremony will take place at the National Conference in Las Vegas in January.

## **History of Wayne Zitkus, Professional and SCCA;**

### **Professional;**

Engineer by education, BSME and MSIE

Employment: Libbey Glass Inc. having retired recently after 50 years of service.

Career Highlights include, 15 US and International patents, Plant Manager at Syracuse China for 7 years, responsible for building Libbey's latest glass tableware plant in China where Wayne lived for three years.

### **SCCA;**

In between 50 years of service to Libbey Wayne slipped in a little time for SCCA. He joined SCCA in 1962 after running his first rally in 1961 when the office secretary asked him to navigate a local TSD rally in her MGA. Wayne caught the bug and became very active in the Northwestern Ohio region, serving in all regional offices. The early 60's saw him winning the regional rally championship several years in a row. Competition expanded to divisional and national rallies. Wayne is currently 6th on the Masters life time points standing not having run a National rally since the early 1980's. Completion spread to endurance rallies where Wayne won the famous POR two times and placed second 3 times. Competition included the Canadian Winter Rally.

Wayne interest in administrative challenges with SCCA started as a member of the NWOR and spread to Chairman of the CENDIV rally board in the late 60's which led to being a member and chairman of the National rally board in the 70's. Highlight of serving on the National rally board was the creation of the SCCA PRO rally program in 1973. Wayne is considered the "father" of the PRO Rally program.

In 1966, 1967 and 1969 Wayne showed his organizational skills by chairing the Andiamo National rally and winning the award for the Best Rally of the year. A first, for the same rally two years in a row and another first, when the 1969 rally won the best rally of the year again and Wayne won the Arthur J. Gervais award in 1969. These accomplishments made the NWOR noticed and members of the region competing in other aspects of SCCA competition noticed within the SCCA ranks. Wayne was a pusher for other NWOR members to become involved in Divisional and National activities within the club.

Wayne's competitive highlights besides winning the POR include winning many National rallies and the 1973 SCCA PRO Rally championship in 1973.

In 1976 after serving as Chairman of the National rally board, Wayne was asked to serve on the SCCA Board of Directors by Ruth Nixon, then a board member. Accepting the appointment led to Wayne running for election two more times and being reelected. His fellow directors appointed him Treasurer of the Club. After his term expired in 1984, Wayne was asked to continue his service as Treasurer of the club, a first in SCCA history. Wayne served for an additional four years as Treasurer. As his roll of Treasurer Wayne institute operational budgeting processes (not inclusion of the Trans Am royalty money in operating budgets) and strict monthly review of the SCCA financial operation in the 1980's.

Besides winning three National awards for the Best Rally of the year, Wayne has also been awarded the Robert V. Ridges Award in 1975 (If you get a chance as Wayne about his ride in Bob Ridges 120 Jag, a fun story) Arthur J. Gervais Award in 1969 and the Carl Hass Cup in 1997.

In the 1980's Wayne's responsibilities at Libbey Glass increased and time for SCCA competition was limited, however Wayne and Ruth got involved in Timing and Scoring and worked or was Chief of timing and scoring at Regional, National and Pro races for several years.

Highlights of Wayne's SCCA activities include Regional leadership roles, Divisional Leadership role and National Leadership roles. As Treasurer Wayne's leadership led the SCCA through difficult financial times as Trans AM royalty incomes vanished. Wayne was on the committee that led to the purchase of the Denver office building as well as on committees to choose the various Presidents of SCCA during the 80's.

Wayne's SCCA life started as a regional competitor, a regional organizer of events and office holder. This early "local" start led him to Divisional duties and onto National positions and eventually to serve on the SCCA Board of directors as a Board member and officer for 13 years. Today while Wayne is not active, he still keeps in contacts with many close SCCA friends and competitors he has known for more than 40 years.

**Upcoming events:**

- To be determined. Keep an eye on the NWOR web site for updates (<http://www.nworscca.com>).

**Club Meeting Minutes Summary 10/2109 held at Bayside Boardwalk in Oregon, OH.**

- Meeting called to order.
- RE: Robert reported a status of the club and reviewed the year. Including status of the trophies. Membership level is holding at 218 and we are in good shape financially. 2010 board members were announced. Status of Solo sights is good, with Tiffin Mall being a successful new sight. Next year we are to host a Pro Solo tentatively scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will also have National Tour events at the Toledo Airport in odd years with even years to be in Peru, Indiana at Grissom AFB.
- None of the other board members reported out.
- Meeting adjourned.

**NWOR 2010 Schedules:**

Member Meetings are held first Tuesday each Month at 6:30 PM unless noted:

- Locations to be determined. Keep an eye on the NWOR web site for updates (<http://www.nworscca.com>).

**Wishing you the happiest of Holidays and a successful  
2010.**