



The Observers Stand

September
2026
Issue #22

The Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Region chapter of the
Sports Car Club of America

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Welcome to Issue 22 of the Observers Stand! We have a full issue, with articles contributed from Mary Jane Berchak, Chris Yeager and Doug Houdeshell! You will also notice several historic sketches drawn by Stan Ross, also supplied to us by Mary Jane.

We have several articles that cover our clubs' events, including the 2026 Weekend Solo Season, the 2026 Governors' Cup, The OHLINS Mid-Ohio Time Trial presented by OVR and an upcoming Track Night in America at Mid-Ohio.

All the great photos you see have been supplied by Mike Berchak. Thanks Mike!

We have also included a list from Dave Killian of all the current class track records at Mid-Ohio.

Thanks to all our contributors, this newsletter would not be possible without your effort and contributions!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Socializer and Board Nominations at Roosters Pickerington

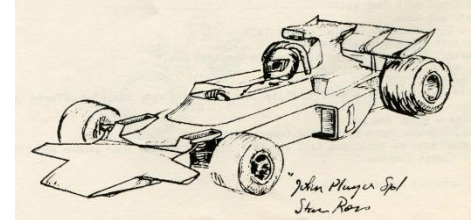
Be sure to put Wednesday September 16 on your schedule as OVR will be having Nominations for the 2027 Board of Directors from 6-8pm.

The event will be held at the following location:

Roosters - Located at The Shoppes of Stonecreek

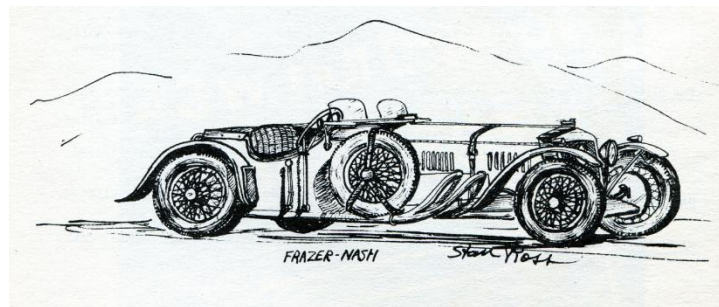
1500 Stonecreek Drive

Pickerington, 43147



OVR will provide food and soft drinks/water and the bar will be open for individuals to purchase alcoholic drinks.

Nominations will be open until 8pm and any member in good standing can be nominated, by themselves or others. If you can't attend, nominations can be made by email to elections@ovr-scca.org but we hope to see you there! RSVP *not* required.



Help Wanted!

Our region is need of a treasurer. Tari Hodge will be steeping down at the end of the year (Thank you for your years of service, Tari!) and we are actively looking for a replacement.

The candidate for the position should be someone with bookkeeping skills, not-for-profit knowledge and familiarity with banking rules and regulations.

Tari will train them on our banking platforms and reporting.

Tari would also like to point out that she is not leaving OVR and will continue to be involved in other ways as time allows.

If you are interested, then please reach out by e-mail to: re@ovr-scca.org

THE OHLINS MID-OHIO TIME TRIAL PRESENTED BY OVR

By Douglas Houdeshell



OVR held our annual time trial on August 7th, 2026. The event was a resounding success. We had 63 drivers registered for the event with 9 cancellations in MSR. Final attendance numbers were slightly lower than anticipated but jumped significantly in the last week of registration. At the end of the day, we had a strong turnout that led to a great event. In addition, we had 27 volunteers registered to support the event.

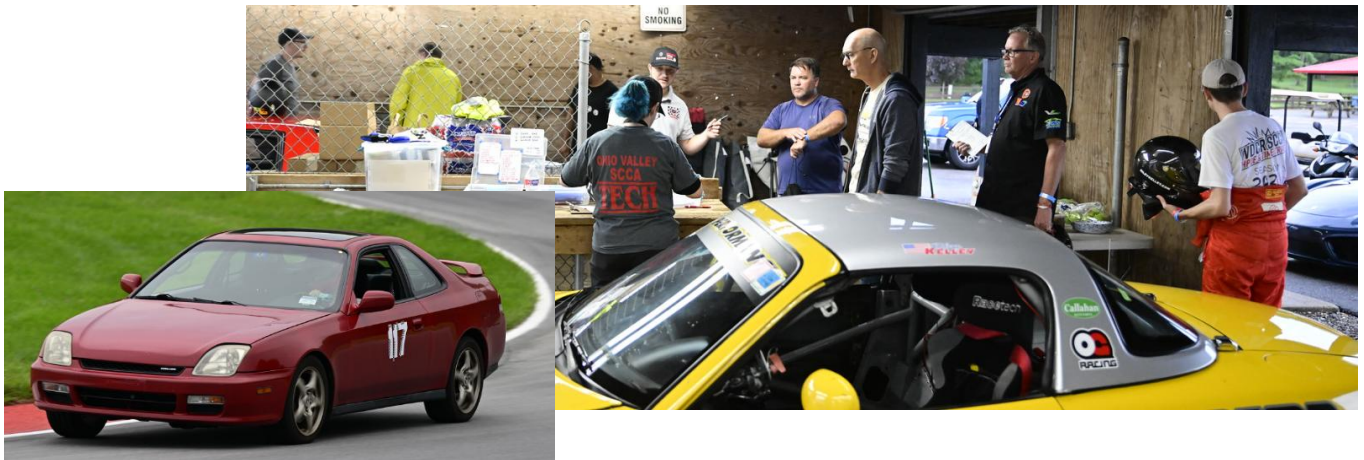
The weather ultimately cooperated with us. The day began with a wet track following an early morning rain. As the day wore on, the conditions improved quickly and the track dried in short order. We launched the first run group on schedule and maintained that timing throughout the day.



Operationally, the event went extremely well with very few issues or complaints. During the morning sessions, it became apparent there was a performance disparity between the Intermediate and Advanced run groups driven largely by self-classification and significant horsepower differences between vehicles. To improve the on-track experience, we made the executive decision during the lunch break to reorganize the afternoon run groups based on overall lap times from the morning sessions.

The change was implemented efficiently, and all drivers were back on course at the scheduled restart time. The revised grouping structure proved successful and provided drivers with improved spacing and more opportunities for clean laps during the afternoon sessions.

The afterparty and awards ceremony were held at the pavilion following the event, where we enjoyed pizza, refreshments, and the opportunity to socialize and celebrate the day's accomplishments.



From a facility and logistics standpoint, we experienced no significant issues.

Most importantly, the event was completely incident-free. Our Safety Steward was pleased to have a paperwork-free weekend, and the event concluded without any safety-related concerns or significant vehicle incidents.



THE OLD LADY WHO LIVES IN THE CARBUREATOR

By Mary Jane Berchak

I offered to send Alan some stories, photographs and things to include in The Observer's Stand. So, here's the first thing.



When I attended one of the early Solo events this year, I noticed that there was a HUGE group of people participating in the Novice Walk. The more I thought about it, the better I felt about it. OVR, as a region, was attracting new participants for our events, there were lots and lots of beginners. I feel that lots of beginners are good for the region. This means we are attracting people who are interested in motorsports, people who are willing to try something new, people who are willing to meet other car nuts, and brave people who are game to try.

I recall the times when I was a novice driver, how easy it was to talk to other car nuts and how impressed I was that everybody helped a beginner. As I ran more events, I noticed that drivers and crews helped each other (except when on track) and took care of each other. This is a good group to grow into and have fun together.



CLASSIC MID-OHIO PHOTOS - from June 1965

Supplied by Mary Jane Berchak





Autocross News

Kunze Claims 2026 Governor's Cup in Thrilling Finish

By Chris Yeager

The 2026 Governor's Cup was held on July 26 at Fortress Obetz, following the conclusion of OVR Solo Points Event No. 6.

Class winners from the points event automatically earned a place in the Governor's Cup, with the remaining spots filled by the top-performing drivers across the event to create a field of 64 competitors.

The Governor's Cup began with all 64 drivers receiving a single run. The 32 fastest drivers advanced to the second round, where another one-run shootout reduced the field to 16.

From there, the remaining drivers were randomly drawn into a head-to-head bracket and competed in a knockout format. Each matchup brought the field one step closer to a final four consisting of Dan Shea, Todd Kunze, Isaiah Pryce, and Claude Lawrence.

Kunze and Lawrence survived their semifinal matchups and advanced to the final run. In an exceptionally close finish, Todd Kunze captured the 2026 Governor's Cup by less than six hundredths of a second.



2026 Auto-X Weekend Series

OVR's 2026 weekend series of points events is complete!

By Alan Stamper

It seems just like a few weeks ago that our Weekend Point Series started back on May 3rd. However, time flies, Spring has passed and we are nearing the end of Summer.

Our last points event was held on August 9th and there were several points battles for season ending awards taking place. I was battling with Jeremy Roger in prepared for the 1st place overall, with Jeremy driving Randy Tackett's BRZ, since his own Audi TT was down for repair. I only was able to be on site for half a day as I had family in from out of town, but I managed to go quickly enough to win for the year. I'm sure a repeat next year will be much more difficult once Jeremy gets his own car back on track.



Looking back at the year, we had a strong Solo season. Our most attended event was Points Event #1 with 148 entrants. Overall, Solo averaged just over 110 drivers per event and a total of 884 entrants for the season.

Weather always plays a role in our attendance, and the last several events all had forecasts that were less than stellar, with rain and thunderstorms likely. Several events started with driving to event in a rain shower, but luckily in every case, the rain stopped and the lot dried up by midday.



Date	Name	Number of Drivers	Weather	
May 3rd	TNT	70	61F	Cloudy
May 31st	PE #1	148	78F	Cloudy
June 14th	PE #2	119	81F	Scattered Clouds
June 28th	PE #3	112	81F	Partly Cloudy
July 11th	PE #4 - Great Lakes Day #1	113	79F	Mostly Cloudy
July 12th	PE #5 - Great Lakes Day #2	112	86F	Partly Cloudy
July 26th	PE #6 = Governor's Cup	105	90F	Mostly Cloudy
August 2nd	PE #7	79	86F	Partly Cloudy
August 9th	PE #8	96	89F	Mostly Clear



Putting on a solo event, especially supporting a full season of events, takes hard work and is only made possible by people who volunteer their time and energy to prepare, setup, run and tear down afterwards. A big thank you to our Solo Chairs, Worker Chiefs and everyone else who made this season a success! I also can't be remiss in mentioning our sponsors:

- Ricart Automotive - <https://shorturl.at/M6yBu>
- Juston Herdman - RED 1 Reality - (614) 937-8878
<https://www.facebook.com/justin.herdman.2025>

Thank you all for making this year a success!

Finding the Race Line of Service

What the first year of co-chairing Time Trials taught me about giving back.

By Douglas Houdeshell

When you slip into the driver's seat, fasten the harness, start the engine, and pull on your helmet, you're ready to grid up, head out on course, and feel the smiles per mile. The adrenaline and the thrill of wheeling your car through the turns, nailing the race line, is unmatched.

But here's the question: what makes it all possible?

Behind the scenes, for days, weeks, and months, a labor of love for this sport takes place to make the events we get to drive possible. Nobody sees any of it. That's the point. Grassroots motorsports is built on the backbone of service.



The Nervous Grid

I felt more nervous strapping into the driver's seat of this year's Time Trials, co-running the event with Alan, than I have for any course I've raced all year. The goal was simple: to deliver a first-class event for the OVR membership. To give back to a community that has given so much to me over the years.

It was a rush. Some of the most fun I've had all year, in fact. And it took a village to get there – 27 volunteers stepped up to make it happen, handling everything from grid to timing and scoring to tech.

What It's Really Like

One of those 27 was Mark Harmon, a board member who signed on for his first-ever shift working grid. He told me he went in skeptical about how he'd spend his Friday. He came away with the exact opposite reaction – he had an absolute blast, said he'd do it again in a heartbeat, and now has the itch to get out on track at Mid-Ohio himself.

Mark's turn is exactly why this work matters. Because of the volunteers who gave up their day, eight brand-new novice drivers got their very first laps on track through our First Time on Track Scholarship. Eight people who had never turned a wheel on course now know what it feels like.

Why It's Worth It

So, what possesses someone to take on a task like this? Community. Friendship. Watching that look cross a driver's face after their first session – the one that says they're hooked for life. SCCA's motto is "Fun with Cars," and I had a blast living it, meeting people I'd never crossed paths with before, all rallied around the same cause.

There's no pay in this. Often, there is no free track time either. It's a grind, and it is real work. But watching Mark catch the bug, watching eight novices grin their way off track – that's worth more than any trophy.

Your Turn

OVR runs on people who say yes. Timing and Scoring needs hands. Grid needs hands. Coaching needs voices. If Mark can walk in skeptical and walk out already planning his next event, so can you.

Reach out to your Region leadership and ask where you're needed most this season. Bring a friend. Show up once. See what happens.

And the next time you're at an event, find a worker and say thank you. Teamwork is what makes Fun with Cars possible – for all of us.



Track Night in America at Mid-Ohio

The SCCA will be putting on a Track Night in America at Mid-Ohio on October 9th! OK, really, it's a Track Day in America event, since the event closes at 4:30 PM, but you get the idea.

This event is really great way to get on track at Mid-Ohio and the price is extremely reasonable. The day is split into a morning and an evening event and you can run AM, PM or both. The cost is \$185 per event for members or \$210 per event for non-members. That is a heck of a deal!

You can register using this link:

<https://www.tracknightinamerica.com/events/2010447-track-night-2026-special-edition-mid-ohio-sports-car-course-october-9>



Mid-Ohio Road Racing Track Records

As of 8-13-26

Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course



SCCA Road Racing Track Records (including Runoffs)

2.4 Mile Long Club Course

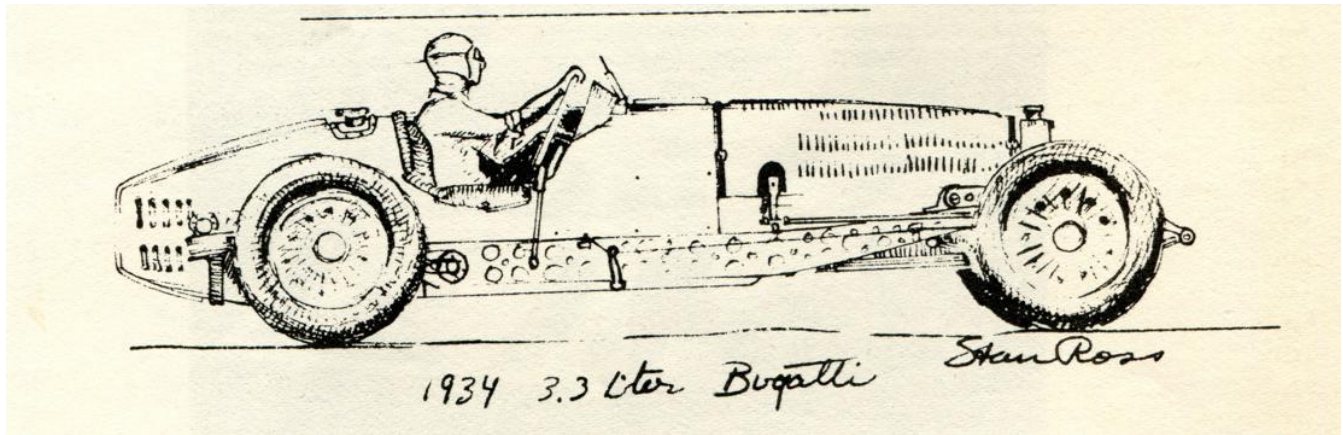
Majors Classes

<u>Class</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>MPH</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Driver</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Class Name</u>
FA	1:19.349	108.89	6/1/2014	Daniel Burkett	Winnipeg,MB	Swift 014	Formula Atlantic®
FC	1:25.031	101.61	8/10/2025	John Burton LaRue	Muncie,IN	Citation Snipe FZ/Ford	Formula Continental®
FE2	1:24.661	102.05	5/17/2025	Chris Jennerjohn	Hartford City,IN	FE2/Mazda	Formula Enterprises 2
FX	1:28.075	98.10	5/23/2021	Vaughn Glace	Pittsburgh,PA	Van Diemen	Formula X
FF	1:32.099	93.81	5/19/2024	Zachary Rivard	Macomb,MI	Van Diemen FR99/Honda	Formula F
F6	1:30.132	95.86	5/19/2024	Sven de Vries	Holt,MI	Novakar J7	Formula 600
FV	1:39.262	87.04	6/1/2014	Michael Varacins	Burlington,WI	Speed Sport AM-5/VW	Formula Vee®
GTX	1:22.841	104.30	7/30/2022	Jonathan Finstrom	Leonard,MI	Wolf Extreme	GT - X
GT1	1:24.612	102.11	5/18/2025	Michael McAleenan	Tacoma,WA	Lamborghini Huracan gt3 evo	GT - 1
GT2	1:28.473	97.66	5/17/2025	Kjared Odrick	Lebanon,PA	Chevrolet Camaro TA2	GT - 2
P	1:20.816	106.91	5/18/2025	Perry Richardson	Los Gatos,CA	Stohr WF1/Suzuki	Prototype
P2	1:24.613	102.11	6/3/2018	Greg Gyann	Willowbrook,IL	Stohr WF1/Suzuki	Prototype 2
SRF3	1:35.078	90.87	5/18/2025	Bobby Sak	Bloomfield Hills,MI	Spec Racer Ford Gen3	Spec Racer® Ford Gen3
EP	1:36.423	89.61	6/3/2017	Joe Moser	Wilmette,IL	Honda Prelude	E Production
FP	1:37.242	88.85	5/17/2026	Craig Chima	Akron,OH	Lotus Super Seven	F Production
HP	1:40.821	85.70	5/19/2024	Steve Sargis	Hartford,WI	Triumph Spitfire	H Production
AS	1:36.713	89.34	6/1/2014	Andy McDermid	Howell,MI	Ford Mustang	American Sedan®
STU	1:35.554	90.42	6/2/2018	Kevin Boehm	Marysville,OH	Honda Civic	Super Touring® Under
STL	1:37.751	88.39	10/15/2022	Matt Spicuzzi	Waterford Twp,MI	Mazda RX-8	Super Touring® Light
STL	1:37.751	88.39	10/15/2022	Max Gee	Bellville,OH	Honda Prelude	Super Touring® Light
SM	1:42.372	84.40	5/18/2025	Max Stallone	Lakeway,TX	Mazda Miata	Spec Miata
SMX	1:39.804	86.57	5/17/2026	William Wallis	Paso Robles,CA	Mazda MX-5	Spec MX-5
T1	1:33.651	92.26	5/30/2015	Andrew Aquilante	Chester Springs,PA	Ford Mustang 302R	Touring 1
T2	1:35.081	90.87	5/17/2026	Chip Herr	Lititz,PA	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Touring 2
T3	1:35.768	90.22	5/17/2026	Nic Hammann	Elkhart Lake,WI	Nissan 370Z Nismo	Touring 3
T4	1:39.657	86.70	5/18/2025	Ethan Barker	Houston,TX	Mazda MX-5	Touring 4
B-Spec	1:48.728	79.46	5/18/2025	Rob Piekarczyk	Brunswick,OH	Honda Fit	B-Spec

Regional Classes

ASR	1:30.257	95.73	10/4/1992	Dave Finch	Ann Arbor,MI		Sports Racer A
CFC	1:28.485	97.64	8/30/2014	Thomas Gaffney	Birmingham,MI	Reynard SF88/Ford	Club Formula Continental
CFF	1:34.597	91.33	7/18/1993	Jim Locke	Wilmerding,PA	Gemini CFF1600	Club Formula F
FE	1:28.820	97.28	10/17/2020	James Libecco	Solon,OH	Formula Enterprise/Mazda	Formula Enterprises
FS	1:28.354	97.79	10/8/2016	Jon Staudacher	Kawkawlin,MI	Staudacher S16	Formula S
FST	1:38.761	87.48	9/4/2010	Jason Steeb	Novi,MI	Lynks FST	Formula First
SP	1:27.930	98.26	7/3/2005	Bret Moyer	Pittsburgh,PA	Chevrolet Corvette	Super Production
SPU	1:38.101	88.07	7/15/2017	Ardalan Sadeghi	Dublin,OH	Legends Thunder Roadster	Super Production under 3.0l
SRF	1:39.323	86.99	6/2/2012	Scott Rettich	Camden,OH	Spec Racer Ford	Spec Racer® Ford
S2	1:27.606	98.62	10/12/1997	David Downey	Blacklick,OH	Lola 89/90	Sports 2000
GTA	1:35.360	90.60	10/16/2021	Chris Curbin	South Park,PA	Chevrolet Monte Carlo	GT - A
GT3	1:33.573	92.33	6/12/2011	Paul Young	Commerce Twp,MI	Ford Probe	GT - 3
GTL	1:39.295	87.01	5/30/2015	Kyle Disque	Philadelphia,PA	Toyota Tercel	GT - Lite
ITE	1:32.742	93.16	7/3/2004	Norm Goldrich	Cincinnati,OH	Porsche KMR GT2	Improved Touring E
ITR	1:41.871	84.81	7/31/2010	Kip Van Steenburg	Winter Park,FL	Porsche 944s2	Improved Touring R
ITS	1:42.338	84.43	10/12/2014	Mark Bennett	Lagrange,OH	Mazda Miata	Improved Touring S
ITA	1:42.643	84.18	8/1/2010	Joe Moser	Chicago,IL	Honda CRX Si	Improved Touring A
ITB	1:46.912	80.81	8/10/2008	Vaughan Scott	Royal Oak,MI	Porsche 924	Improved Touring B
IT7	1:46.146	81.40	10/17/2020	Tom Metcalf	Gambier,OH	Mazda RX-7	Improved Touring 7
ITC	1:48.503	79.63	10/7/2006	Devin Box	Bay City,MI	Honda Civic	Improved Touring C

LC	1:43.781	83.25	7/11/2026	Kyle Mitchell	Middleton,WI	Legend Ford Coupe	Legend Cars
SSM	1:46.894	80.83	8/9/2026	Christopher Kelley	New Market,MD	Mazda Miata	Showroom Spec Miata
C-Spec	1:46.558	81.08	8/9/2026	Gabe Fehribach	Ferdinand,IN	Mazda 3i	C-Spec
RSR	1:41.892	84.80	7/11/2026	David Shaal	Woodbury,MN	Rush Suzuki	Rush Sports Racer
SR1							Radical SR1
SR3	1:33.259	92.65	8/10/2025	Hayden Vermost	Louisville,KY	Radical SR3XX	Radical SR3



OVR SCCA Solo 2026 Schedule

Location: Rabid Customs

~~Saturday, April 25th- Annual Tech Day~~

Location: Fortress Obetz

~~Sunday, May 3rd - TrT~~

~~Saturday, May 30th - PE1~~

~~Sunday, June 14th - PE2~~

~~Sunday, June 28th - PE3~~

~~Saturday, July 11th - PE4 (GLDD Day 1)~~

~~Sunday, July 12th - PE5 (GLDD Day 2)~~

~~Sunday, July 26th - PE6~~

~~Sunday, August 2nd - PE7~~

~~Sunday, August 9th - PE8~~

Saturday, September 12th- Fun Run

Wednesday, September 23rd- PAX 1

Wednesday, September 30th- PAX 2

Wednesday, October 7th- PAX 3

Location: Darana Raceway

Saturday, September 19th- TBD

Sunday, September 20th- TBD



Type	Date	Event	Location
Club Racing	Friday, May 15, 2026	Ohio Valley Region SCCA Hoosier Super Tour 2026	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course Lexington OH
Club Racing	Saturday, August 08, 2026	Ohio Valley Region 2026 Sprints	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course Lexington OH
Club Racing	Saturday, October 10, 2026	Ohio Valley Region 2026 Autumn Classic XLV	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course Lexington OH



SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA