

Sports Car Club of America
RoadRally Board Minutes
August 8, 2016

The RoadRally Board met via conference call on August 8, 2016; meeting called to order at 7:35 CDT by Chairman Rich Bireta. In attendance: Rich Bireta, Clarence Westberg, John Emmons, Jim Crittenden, Clyde Heckler, NEC chairman Mike Thompson, RDC chairman Jay Nemeth-Johannes, guest Peter Schneider, North Jersey Region, BOD liaisons Lee Hill, Bob Dowie, and Terry Hanushek, SCCA Staff Jamie Mullin, and Jeanne English, RRB secretary.

Minutes: July minutes stand as distributed, and as published in RReNews; the next Fastrack will have both the July and August minutes.

Front Burner Items:

1. Observe a minute of silence for Ted Goddard, longtime New England Region member, who died recently; he was involved in all aspects of SCCA.
2. RReNewsletter – The latest issue was published the first week of August. Rich thought the variety of authors and articles, including pro rally history, made it an exceptionally good issue, perhaps the best ever. Rich also noted Cheryl's suggestion that rally organizers promote the newsletter at their events in order to build the community. Terry mentioned that we had talked previously about linking to it on the SCCA website – anything new on this? Rich answered no, that he needs to get hold of John K with a list updates; including having someone other than those at the national office being able to update items.
3. Planning Calendar released today, there will probably be another one in a week a two
4. Targa Southeast Update (Peter): the event is this weekend, there are 30 cars entered, the rally portion is ready to go; Peter and Bruce Gezon wrote the course and saw it four more times, and then Mark Johnson did the Safety Check; the rally format is 3 Monte Carlo controls, then 21 questions to answer, ranging from simple to hard.
5. SCCA Staff Attendees (Jamie):
 - a. Any items? Jamie will be checking the Planning Calendar against the SCCA website to make sure events are listed on the SCCA website; Rich pointed out that only sanctioned events are on the SCCA website, that the Planning Calendar has events not yet sanctioned. Jamie is also willing to follow-up on getting various updates posted to the SCCA website.
6. Regional Development Committee (Jay): Jay is writing articles for Cheryl for RReNews, working on getting some committee members (Stu Helfer and Peter have volunteered), sent letters to a few others; Jay is behind on getting members for a couple of reasons, one of which is the charter for the committee, he is delaying until he knows exactly what the RDC will be doing; he has articles and other things, but nowhere to publish them; Chicago Region contacted him about doing some rallies together. Rich said he appreciates what a really big task Jay has, essentially starting with a blank sheet of paper; it is important to raise awareness to regions, an updated website is critical; we need to maintain a library of sample materials. Jay said that he also needs safety stewards and trainers. Jim asked if we are we meeting this year's goal (RDC goal: Have 4 regions that did not put on a rally in 2015 put on at least one rally in 2016); he also suggested checking with regions that had put on a rally last year or the year before but not this year; this is a different approach than finding new people. Jay said we need to find 20 to 30 year olds to become involved, not more older people.
7. NEC Report (Mike)
 - a. Recent and Upcoming National events (Confirm dates at scca.com)
 - i. NER Hurdle GTA – August 6
 - ii. Clear Blue Sky GTA – August
 - iii. LOL – Course/Tour – Oktober Rally/Badger Trails – Sept 16, 17
 - iv. (not yet sanctioned) Two National Course Rallies, Folsom, CA – October 15, 16
 - v. (not yet sanctioned) SoCal Highway Robbery – October 22
 - b. Liaisons for 2016 and 2017 USRRC
 - i. ??? – 2016 (New England) – Mike needs to find a new liaison for 2016, as Ron Ferris is no longer available
 - ii. Mike Thompson – 2017 (Arctic Alaska)
 - c. Mike said he needs more/new NEC members.
 - d. Waiting for public comment on 2017 RRR proposals.
 - e. When a sanction app is submitted, we should reply with an organizers list including forms; Mike will work on getting this done.

8. Pointskeeper status (John): current standings are in the latest RReNews; John updates results as he gets them.
9. 2017 Proposed Rule Changes: should we release them for public comment?
 - a. Strength of Field points – no action taken. Terry said that on the racing side, they have a ‘what do you think?’ letter system that seems to work for them; perhaps something like that could be used for road rally, for this topic or any other.
 - b. **See below for Memorandum about National Championship Points Based on Strength of Field**
 - c. Road Rally Safety Steward License – Risk Management has said that they would be OK with a ‘qualified person’ to do the Safety Steward checkout. Rich raised the question of how to determine who is qualified. Mike said that we have the RRSS checklist that can be used. Lee suggested a combined function of doing both course checkout and RRSS checkout. This is administrative, not part of the rules proposals.
 - d. When the RRR proposals are released, Mike will delete all proposed references to GTAs – see the following discussion:

At last month's RRB meeting, the NEC proposed a list of RRR rule changes. The first of them was to eliminate the GTA national championship (GTA rallies could still be put on, but they would not have their own championship). After this meeting, our BOD liaison Terry talked with other BOD members with the result being that the BOD feels that ending the GTA championship will not be well received by those who compete in GTA rallies, and that the BOD does not want to diminish avenues of participation; the RRB should focus on growing the GTA program; Lee said that doing away with a championship is only negative. John questioned whether the BOD knew that GTA rallies were still OK, just that there would not be a championship. Clyde said that the GTA series has not caught on, but he thinks there should be one. Peter said that it's not really a championship, since only a few people actually participate nationally. Clarence said that GTAs need to be promoted differently, that they are a way for people to just go out and have fun. Jim agreed with Terry, that we should keep the GTA championship. Terry commented about the nature of GTA events. Jay said that GTA/gimmick rallies are the focus of what he is encouraging for regional events. Rich said it is clear that ending the GTA championship will not be supported by the BOD; he is taking it off the table for RRRs revision and public comment. Jay will post to the Yahoo group that the GTA championship is not ending.
 - e. **See below for 2017 Road Rally Rule Change Proposals**

Other items or new business: none.

Rich then asked if there was anything else on anyone's mind. The answers, as he asked each person in attendance, were mostly “nothing”, one “I've probably said too much already”, and then Terry said he had something. Terry that the Solo program has Solo Development Coordinators, which could be translated to a Divisional Rally Development Coordinator, replacing the current Divisional Road Rally Stewards, and this can perhaps help Jay's RDC; Rich said this goes hand-in-glove with what Jay is doing.

Motion to adjourn at 8:47 PM CDT

Next meeting September 12, via conference call

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne English, RRB Secretary

Item 9.b:

August 10, 2016

Memorandum to the Road Rally Community

Subject: National Championship Points Based on Strength of Field

The SCCA Road Rally Board is soliciting comments from the rally community concerning a proposal to change the amount of National Championship points that would be awarded on an event. Some in the community have suggested that beating 7 cars in your class should be worth more points than beating 2 cars in your class, for example.

There are many possible implementations of such a change. For example, in addition to beating cars in your class, should Class L entries be awarded points for posting a better score than a Class E car?

We'd like your opinion on the general concept of such a rule change. Please address your comments via email to rrb@scca.com.

~Rich Bireta
Chair,
SCCA Road Rally Board

Item 9.e:

2017 Road Rally Rule Change Proposals

The attached list of proposals has been suggested by members of the road rally community as rule changes for SCCA RoadRallies for next year. The SCCA Road Rally Board (RRB) will vote on each one of these proposals later this year and we would very much like to hear your opinion on each of them. If you would be willing to share your opinion on any or all of these proposals with us, please send an email to rrb@scca.com and tell us what you think. Let us hear from you prior to October 8th. In sharing your opinion on a particular proposal, please refer to it by the number assigned in the list below.

These proposed rule changes have been approved by the Road Rally Board only for release for comment from the rally community and this does not mean that they will necessarily be approved for inclusion in the 2017 rules. That is why it is important that we hear from you prior to making the final decision on each rule.

Administrative proposals:

1. Delete the requirement to display SCCA stickers on rally cars (Article 13 C 2).
2. Require sanction requests for Divisional rallies to be submitted 60 days ahead of the event. Current rules require Divisional sanctions be submitted 30 days in advance. (Article 4C)
3. Require sanction requests for Divisional rallies to include a rough draft of their General Instructions. Current rules require only National rallies to submit a rough draft of their General Instructions. (Article 4 C)
4. Eliminate the RoadRally Safety Steward licensing program. The function of a rally safety check would be performed by a prechecker who would complete the form that is currently completed by the safety steward.

Operating rule proposals:

5. Require Divisional rallies to adhere to Articles 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 in addition to the other articles that they are currently required to follow. (See Appendix A for a list of the current requirements)
6. Prohibit cable syncing of contestant clocks to the rallymaster's clock.

Championship Series proposals:

7. Change the language describing year end awards to the following: At the conclusion of the competition year, contestants who have neither met the eligibility requirements described in Article 8 A nor competed in at least one National RoadRally during the year in that series (Tour, Course, GTA) will be removed from the standings. Finishing positions will then be assigned. If two or more contestants have accumulated the same number of points, the position in question shall be declared a tie. The next position(s) shall be vacated. Awards will be presented to the people who finish in the top 10 positions in each Class in each Series.
8. Remove the 70 point limit for Divisional rallies in Article 8 B 4.
9. Delete the triple points for USRRC events. USRRC points will be assigned as they would be for any other rally, that is, 20 points for a National win and 10 points for a Divisional win.
10. Increase the equivalents from 14 to 16 in Article 8 B 4. This would allow contestants to include one more National or two more Divisionals in the group of events that are used to count their best 10 equivalents.
11. Increase worker points for working a National rally to 20 points. Working a Divisional rally would remain as 10 points. Specify that worker points can only be earned on one event per year per award category.

12. Reduce worker points for working a Divisional rally to 5 points. Keep worker points for a National rally at 10 points. (This is an alternate proposal to the prior one)
13. Require contestants to compete in at least two National rallies to be eligible for a year-end award. Current rules require contestants to compete in at least one National to be eligible for a year-end award. (Article 8 B 4)
14. Require that contestants be an annual SCCA member to earn Championship Series points. Current rules allow weekend members to earn Championship points as long as they become an annual member by November 1st. (Article 8 A)