

# Mississippi Region

## #73



January 30, 2012

# SKIDMARKS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 11/12 Autox –  
Meridian Roadway  
Freight Terminal
- March 3/4 Autox –  
Meridian Roadway  
Freight Terminal
- MSSCCA Annual  
Awards Banquet:  
Time and Location still  
to be determined
- The 2012 MSSCCA  
Event Calendar is at  
[http://www.msscca.org/  
events.html](http://www.msscca.org/events.html).

## SCCA Returns to Jackson!!

*The MSSCCA held an autocross Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> in the city of Jackson for the first time in almost seven years. The event was in conjunction with the annual "Racing Vehicle Extravaganza" car show, which was held at the Trade Mart Center. The Mississippi Coliseum Fairgrounds south parking lot was used for the autocross. The weather was perfect, partly cloudy seventy degrees. Last year I remember it icing over around the same time, so everyone was grateful for such a beautiful day in early January.*

*A total of 44 drivers registered for the event. This was by far the most participation MSSCCA has had for an autocross event in quite some time. Throughout the day, a few hundred spectators gathered, sitting on their tailgates and lawn chairs, to see what SCCA Solo racing was all about.*

*The Novice class, which consisted of 19 drivers, was won by Daniel Roach in his HS Jetta. Mark Rester and Cameron Coleman were a close second and third. Street Tire class had 14 participants and was won by a VW GTI driven by Trey Williams of Columbus. Taylor George came in second place followed by Tracy Hipp. The open tire class featured 11 drivers. Dennis Sparks from Madison, Alabama took home first place, FTD, and overall pax. Daniel Johnson finished in second place just 0.177 seconds behind Dennis and Ed Rice followed close behind in third place.*

*Overall the MSSCCA returning to Jackson was a huge success. Other than a shower towards the end of the day, I think the event went as smooth as possible. I want to thank Bill Bissell, the "Racing Vehicle Extravaganza" event coordinator, and everyone else involved with putting this event together. Thank you, this would have not been possible without all your hard work. Keep a look out for future events in the Jackson Metro area this year.*

Full results at <http://www.msscca.org/results.html>

-written by Taylor George



-Photos courtesy of Travis Dance (TitanImagery.com)

## SOLO II POINTS

*After the last two Meridian events, our long 2011 autocross season came to an end. The Open Tire class was back and forth all year long. Daniel Johnson and Romesh Canekeratne each took home 7 first place finishes, but it was Daniel who came out on top, by a slim two point margin, in the overall points. Gene Long finished strong, on five cylinders I might add, to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the season. In street tire there was a fierce battle all year long between Mike Larkins Mark Canekeratne, and John Ye. Only a few tenths of a second at each event separated the three drivers. In these last few events Mark came close, but not close enough to take the lead from Mike. John Ye finished in a strong 3<sup>rd</sup> place just a few points behind Mark.*

### 2011 Final Points

Open Tire		Street Tire	
Daniel Johnson	127	Mike Larkins	133
Romesh Canekeratne	125	Mark Canekeratne	128
Gene Long	97	John Ye	122
Ed Rice	71	Ed Rice	44
Taylor George	68	Trey Walker	40
Brian Hardy	65	Timmy McCoy	39
Skip Brunson	57	Ben Coffman	29
Brian Anderson	36	Ross Crimaldi	28

Full Results at <http://www.msscca.org/points.html>

*MSSCCA will hold its annual awards banquet sometime in early February to recognize our many member achievements from the 2011 season. A time, date, and location have not been decided for the banquet, but most likely it will be held in the Jackson Metro Area. Keep your eyes and ears tuned in to find out when the event will occur.*

## Toys for Tots Charity Event, Meridian, MS December 10/11

December 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> the MSSCCA held a charity event for the Toys for Tots foundation, this event was close to Christmas and we were able to raise \$100 and donated a very large box full of toys for children not fortunate to receive gifts for the holidays.

Each driver who attended the event donated a child's toy or donated \$5 to the Toys for Tots Charity. Even with the cold weather, many drivers came to support the cause. Saturday was a real battle for the Open Tire Championship between Daniel Johnson and Romesh Canekeratne. Romesh put on the pressure but Daniel in his H Stock Focus managed to slip away from his grasp; Daniel took 1<sup>st</sup> for the day and was able to take 1<sup>st</sup> place in the points. And in Street Tire, Mike Larkins kept his lead in 1<sup>st</sup> place from Mark Canekeratne, Mark has been close behind Mike the entire season but did not create an upset over the weekend.

Overall the weekend had a great turnout; the MSSCCA donated to a good cause and spiked an interest in many local Meridians about autocross. The local news station came out and did a little story on MSSCCA and Toys for Tots in Meridian. Here is a link to the article:

[http://www.wtok.com/home/headlines/Holiday\\_Toy\\_Donations\\_Still\\_Needed\\_135385553.html](http://www.wtok.com/home/headlines/Holiday_Toy_Donations_Still_Needed_135385553.html)

-written by Gene Long



Taylor, Mike and John Ye's son accepting their trophies.



Gene Long hoisting his 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy after a hard day's work.



The Gulf Coast crew stealing the show taking home six trophies over the weekend.

-Photos courtesy of the Canekeratne Family

## Solo Class Changes for 2012

*The national SCCA organization compiled all the member comments and suggestions from 2011 and came up with quite a few class changes for the 2012 Solo II season. One of the most noticeable class changes racers will see this year is the elimination of the previous ST class, which in turn created the new STF and STC classes. A new street prepared class, SSP, was also added to accommodate some of the more exotic sport cars.*

*I will begin with rule changes and additions made to the stock class. The main rule change that stuck out to me was about sway bars. The rule states:*

*A. Substitution, addition, or removal of a single anti-roll bar and supporting hardware (brackets, endlinks, bushings, etc.) is permitted. The use of any bushing material is permitted. A bushing may be implemented as a bearing.*

*This means that you can change (add or remove) either the front or rear sway bar. Only one sway bar change is permitted. The previous rule only allowed substitution of the front sway bar. Stock car class changes were minimal. Super Stock (SS) now will include the previously excluded Dodge Viper (08-09) and the Porsche 911 GT3 (997, non-RS), and D-Stock (DS) will now add the John Cooper Works Minis, who were in C-Stock (CS) in 2011.*

*The new STF and STC classes were made to help make a wider variety of cars competitive. In the past, the late 80's Honda Civics dominated the ST class and sometimes even the STX class. The Civics and lighter sport compacts were moved to the new STC class and also restricted from STX. In turn, the heavier front wheel drive cars were moved into a separate STF class. This will give cars like the Ford Focus, Mazda 3, and Mini Cooper a better chance at competing in street touring where in previous years the only viable choice was HS.*

*The new Super Street Prepared (SSP) class was added in hopes to help increase street prepared participation as entries have been down in the past few years. Moving the Corvette to SSP helps open up the ASP field to other cars and drivers. I am looking forward to seeing how all these changes make an impact on the 2012 Solo II season.*

*For more info on the 2012 rule/class changes visit:*

*Fastrack News Dec. 2011: <http://scca.cdn.racersites.com/prod/assets/11-fastrack-dec.pdf>*

*2012 Solo Rules Draft: [http://scca.cdn.racersites.com/prod/assets/2012\\_Solo\\_Rules\\_draft\\_1-12r.pdf](http://scca.cdn.racersites.com/prod/assets/2012_Solo_Rules_draft_1-12r.pdf)*

*Updated 2012 PAX Index: <http://home.comcast.net/~paxrtp/rtp2012.html>*

*-written by Taylor George*

**Minute by Minute*****Meeting Minutes: December 1<sup>st</sup>***

Our final social meeting of the year was held on Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at Mugshots Bar and Grill on Lakeland Dr. in Jackson. Most of the night, young members listened to “ancient” open-wheel SCCA club racing stories from Road Atlanta. I never knew there was so much Mississippi road racing history. When the pastime talk concluded, a few regional business topics were discussed.

A replacement timing light set had been ordered and members decided that we needed to ordered new cones and a new SCCA banner also. Divisional dues to the Midwest Division were talked about and we discussed sending someone to their convention on February 3,4,5 in Springfield, Missouri. Details and logistics of the upcoming Toys for Tots Charity Event on Dec. 10-11 were discussed. Taking a \$5 donation for Toys for Tots for drivers that didn't bring a toy was accepted.

There was more talk about new potential autocross sites in the Jackson and Meridian area. Early details about the Jackson autocross on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Mississippi Coliseum fairgrounds were discussed. Also, we talked about our participation in the annual “Racing Vehicle Extravaganza” the weekend of Jan. 7-8.

***Meeting Minutes: January 14<sup>th</sup>***

MSSCCA held its first board meeting of 2012 at Daniel Johnson's home on Saturday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. Trey Walker, Gene Long, Daniel Johnson, Craig Smith, Taylor George, and Skip Brunson were present. The main topic on the agenda was the 2012 schedule of events. A tentative schedule was created pending approval by the local site management. The idea of holding a joint event at the MS Coliseum Fairgrounds with the Great Southern Motorcycle Expo in March was discussed. Bill Bissell is the contact for the motorcycle show.

Adding the Tire Rack Survival Program to our region was discussed. The May 19/20 weekend at Columbus Air Force Base was selected as the date to hold the event. The Survival Program would be held in conjunction with the annual Safety Day at Columbus Air Force Base. In order to prepare for this event, the board suggested sending a couple members to volunteer with the Chattanooga Region's Survival Program in March. The members who attend would be chairmen in helping to coordinate the Columbus Event. It was suggested that members who participate as instructors in the Saturday school would be given a free entry for the Sunday only autocross event.

We discussed holding the awards Banquet in either Meridian or Jackson. If in Meridian, we would hold it at Weidmann's Restaurant on a Saturday night after an event. If in Jackson, we would reserve a room at a local restaurant or hold the Banquet at Craig's wife's business in Madison.

Volunteering for the Memphis International Raceway (MIR) SCCA Double Region National on March 31/ April 1 or the Indy race at Barber Motorsports Park that same weekend was discussed. The Chin Motorsports' track day schedule for Road Atlanta and Barber was discussed.

The purchase of a portable PA system for autocross events was brought up. The PA system must be “portable”, lightweight, and somewhat waterproof. Lastly, the board discussed increasing the entry fee for Jackson autocross events to \$30 from \$25 to help account for site rental fees and security cost.

<b><u>Year-End Treasurer's Report</u></b>		
Beginning Balance January 1, 2011:	\$9,384.44	
Receipts:	\$840.00	Dues
	\$9,795.00	Autocross gross income
Expenses:	\$5,910.28	Autocross expenses
	\$2,276.00	SCCA solo sanction fees
	\$1,392.78	Non-event expenses
Ending Balance December 31, 2011	<u>\$10,440.38</u>	

## CLUB BIG WHEELS

<b>Regional Executive (Webmaster)</b>	Daniel Johnson <a href="mailto:Daniel_s_Johnson@hotmail.com">Daniel_s_Johnson@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Assistant Regional Executive</b>	Trey Walker <a href="mailto:charlescwalker@gmail.com">charlescwalker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Skip Brunson <a href="mailto:georgebpainter@aol.com">georgebpainter@aol.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b>	Craig Smith <a href="mailto:SmithCD@fpwk.com">SmithCD@fpwk.com</a>
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