

# Mississippi Region

## #73



November 3, 2011

# SKIDMARKS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Grenada Solo II AutoX  
Nov 5/6
- Safety Steward's Class  
@ Grenada Nov. 5
- Meridian Solo II AutoX  
Nov 19/20
- Meridian Solo II AutoX  
Dec 10/11

## Latest News and Tire Tracks

### October 8/9 AutoCross

*The last event held in Columbus was a low turn-out but a great weekend for racing. As usual for a Columbus event, there were a lot of high speed sweepers and a blistering fast finish. Romesh and Mark Canekeratne both brought their "A game" all the way from Florida. They made it home with 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies in both Street tire and Open tire classes both days. Gene Long in his dying STX BMW took 2<sup>nd</sup> place both days as well. John Ye brought home a 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy in Street tire Saturday, but his co-driver Mike Larkins took it Sunday. Brian Hardy, a driver all the way from New Orleans, brought up the lead with his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in Open tire co-driving the STX BMW. John Denton brings his 97 DSP BMW back into the playing field to take a 3<sup>rd</sup> place Trophy on Saturday. 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Street tire was brought home by John Ye. Ed Rice in his newly built STR Miata took 3<sup>rd</sup> place; he fell just a half a second short of taking the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Open tire trophy away from Gene Long.*

-Written by Gene Long

**GREAT  
WEATHER IN  
COLUMBUS  
LEADS TO  
PERFECT  
WEEKEND**



## SOLO II POINTS

*It has been a long season and not an easy one. There has been event cancelations, and even rain at events to shake things up.*

*In Open Tire Daniel Johnson, in his HS SVT Ford Focus, has a dominating lead, but not too far behind is Romesh Canekeratne, then Gene Long in the dying STX BMW followed closely by Taylor George in his FP S2000*

*John Ye and Mike Larkins have been battling all season in Ye's BS Subaru STI, only 4 points separate the two for 1<sup>st</sup> place in street tire. It will be an exciting end of the year finish for them both. Mark Canekeratne is not too far behind in 3<sup>d</sup> place, his last 2 wins at Columbus have brought him closer to Ye and Larkins.*

Open Tire		Street Tire	
Daniel Johnson	96	John Ye	102
Romesh Canekeratne	76	Mike Larkins	98
Gene Long	57	Mark Canekeratne	73
Skip Brunson	44	Ed Rice	44
Taylor George	39	Timmy McCoy	39
Trey Williams	35	Trey Walker	25
Brian Hardy	30	John Denton	25
Ed Rice	29	Ben Coffman	24



Local, Josh Knost driving at Meridian's first Auto Cross in years



Mickey Rushings shows how a Miata is supposed to be driven



Mike Larkins bringing the Subaru STI to victory at Meridian



Taylor at Columbus Air Force Base in his FP S2000.

## **Memphis International Raceway PDX** **September 10/11**

*The formally known Memphis Motorsports Park reopened its gates for a SCCA Performance Driving Experience (PDX), its first since August of 2009. This event was set-up and coordinated by Bud Brazelton and the MidSouth SCCA region out of Memphis. Twenty-one drivers and nine instructors from the Mississippi, MidSouth, and St. Louis regions participated in a full filled two day event.*

*Saturday morning began with a short classroom, “under the tent”, session on event rules, flag identification, and safety. Three run groups were made, so each driver would be paired with an instructor. By 9:30, the track was hot with anxious and excited drivers ready to tackle the eight turn 1.8 mile course. One twenty minute session after another, drivers became more familiar with their cars on the track and by early afternoon the chief safety steward, Michael West, had opened both straight-aways, the dragstrip and the back straight between the “M’s” and the “90’s” for passing.*

*Run group three was instructors only, which included many track veterans. A pretty heated battle developed between Mississippi’s own Jim Bishop in his red Datsun 280z racecar and Jim Drago in his race prepped Miata from the MidSouth region. Bishop carried more speed in the straights and for four laps fought off a strong charge from Drago in the “M’s” and “90’s” before being overtaken.*

*After a long day of racing, a barbeque dinner was provided by the MidSouth region. This was a great time for everyone to kick back and discuss the day’s events. Plenty of bench racing was done also. On Sunday, instructors signed off their respective driver’s logbooks which allowed drivers to get out on the track with an empty passenger seat. The weekend was a success and concluded with many tired but hooked drivers. Thanks to all the workers and event personal that helped make this event possible. Keep a look out for more PDXs at MIR in the future.*

*-Written by Taylor George*



Mark Bolding in his modified 300 SRT8



Al Turner entering the "90's" in his sinister Dodge Challenger



Christy Wright in dad Chris's Z06



Trey Walker's RX7 attempting to make the pass

## Upcoming Events

- *The Mississippi Region will be at Grenada Municipal Airport November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have big turnout, and hope the nice weather will hold out.*
- *Charles Haynes from the Midsouth Region will be instructing the SCCA Solo II Safety Stewards School November 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM at the Quality Inn Lobby.*
- *The Meridian Auto Cross will be held November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Air National Guard Base. We had a great turnout last time for our inaugural event and look to have a large turnout after the word spreads. This is a great new venue and we hope to continue to use it.*

**Minute by Minute*****Meeting Minutes: October 29<sup>th</sup>***

A board meeting was held on October 29<sup>th</sup> at Daniel Johnson's home. Trey Walker, Gene Long, Daniel Johnson, Craig Smith, and Taylor George were present. Meeting minutes were recorded by Daniel Johnson and Taylor George. The first thing on the agenda was discussing details about the "SkidMarks" newsletter. The newsletter will be delivered at least bi-monthly to all MSSCCA members through the email list. Next, the board discussed the potential and dire need of having an autocross site in the Jackson metro area for 2012. Each board member is tasked with coming up with 3 potential sites in the area.

The idea of adding online registration to our events was discussed. MotorsportReg.com has three different options for registration. The board decided on using the free option, which allows payment via paypal or cash/check at the event, at the last two Meridian events of 2011. The registration software works directly with our current timing system and will help speed up registration and tech at the event. A two day fee of \$45 for pre-registered drivers and \$55 for "day of" registered drivers was suggested. This would give drivers an incentive to pre-register online before coming to the event.

Equipment and trailer repair purchases were the next thing on the meeting's agenda. All board members agreed that a set of backup Axware timing lights needed to be purchased. Cost is about \$500. Trey and/or Gene will build a display stand to hang/hold our timing display. The region is in need of a new set of cones, so Daniel will check with SCCA to find out cost on a new set of cones, approx. 100 cones. The region trailer will be transported back to Jackson after the November Grenada event for repairs. Taylor and Craig will work on coordinating with a trailer repair company to see if needed repairs are within the region's budget. Needed repairs are: New hydraulic brake system, new taillights, and vinyl repair on the outside of the trailer. If using a repair shop is not within the budget, the trailer will be transported to Taylor's shop in Clinton, and local members will assist in the repairs.

Event promotion was the next topic discussion. Most of our promotion is online, so the board felt like we were comfortable with the amount being done. Other areas in need of improvement were newspaper and television, if possible. "The Clarion Ledger" and "Jackson Free Press" were two suggested local newspapers to check into. At the last meridian event, the region made the local news, so hopefully this will help promote future events.

Gene brought up the idea of having a "Toys for Tots" or some kind of charity event for the final meridian event of 2011. This would be a great event promoter for a great charitable cause. Gene and Daniel, with help from other members, are going to work on organizing this event. A charity event for the Blair E. Batson Hospital in Jackson was also suggested.

The Road Rally program was brought up during the meeting, but not discussed in much detail. A rally event is still a future option. The final item on the agenda, the board discussed the idea of trying to hold an autocross event at the Fairgrounds or somewhere close-by during the Racing Extravaganza Car Show in January.

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## CLUB BIG WHEELS

<b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b>		
Beginning Balance Sept. 1, 2011:	\$11,914.67	
Receipts:	\$175.00	Meridian autocross net receipts
	\$40.00	Dues
Expenses:	\$320.00	Meridian autocross sanction fee
	\$76.99	Meridian autocross expenses
	\$130.73	Trailer towing reimbursement
	\$139.10	Meridian autocross portable toilets
	<u>\$195.00</u>	Meridian autocross membership fees
Ending Balance Sept. 30, 2011	<u>\$11,267.85</u>	