



# The Observers Stand

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Issue #19

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

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Photo Credit: Jeff Loewe

## The Latest News

Alan Stamper

### Welcome to Edition #19 of the Ohio Valley Regions Observers Stand.

You will notice some changes with this newsletter, beginning with me, your Editor, Alan Stamper. Our previous editor, Dave Brown, has returned to his role as the regions Executive Officer and I have taken over the responsibility of production our newsletter. Before talking about the changes, I want to thank Dave for his work and congratulate him for his election to his new position. Thanks Dave!

I'm sure you have already noticed the new format. Along with this change I'm going to try and recreate some of the features and sections of the printed editions from years ago.

I would also like to begin to add articles and stories back into the newsletter. If you have a story you would like to share then I encourage you to submit it. If writing isn't your thing, then I'm willing to listen and write it for you. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have something to share!

I hope you find this updated version of the newsletter enjoyable and informative!

# Elections

## It's that time of year!

Elections for the OVR Board are now in progress! Did you know that OVR is considered a "Jumbo" region with over 800 member that roughly only 1 in 8 of us vote in our yearly elections? That's right, our elections results typically just break 100 ballots. So, when I say that your vote counts, I truly mean it!

Voting is easy to do, with the entire process taking place online. All you need is your member number and an electronic device so you can log into MSReg. You will need to create an account on the site if you don't already have one.

We have Two 2-year Board of Director positions, and One 1-year Board of Director position available this year. You can vote up to Three candidates from the list of candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors this year. The candidates who are selected will begin their term on the OVR, SCCA board of directors in 2026. The Two candidates with the highest vote total will fill the Two 2-year positions and the candidate with the 3rd most votes will fill the 1-year position. Voting is open now, and will close on 11/5 at 8pm.

The full link is shown below:

<https://track.pstmrk.it/3ts/www.motorsportreg.com%2Findex.cfm%2Fevent%2Fsurvey%2FuidSurvey%2F0FE5EF4C-BDCD-E6CD-81AF009DF6B19D9A/cP88/r4bAAQ/AQ/519fa946-1e0f-410b-bde4-694f16c4e957/1/iE4pJPSeuJ>

The board would like to thank Matt Downing for stepping up and being our Elections Officer again this year. He really does a great job. If you have any questions or issues then please don't hesitate to contact him at [elections@ovr-scca.org](mailto:elections@ovr-scca.org).

The following is a list (in no order) of the candidates and their election statements.



## Z Hardesty

Z Hardesty for Ohio Valley Region SCCA Board of Director

Z Hardesty here, ready to continue helping the Region in any way I can. You may remember me from Road Racing tech inspections, but more likely you remember me by my blue hair as OVR RE from 2020-2024. Yes, the one who made frog jokes at the banquet. And one who has come to help at Solo, Rallycross, and Time Trial or Time Attack.

I've been attending SCCA events since 1980 (and a member since 1987). In that time, I've primarily been a Scrutineer. I've worked several Runoffs and am now Ohio Valley Region's Chief of Tech along with Great Lakes' Divisional Administrator of Tech. If I were to win the lottery, I'd have several Miatas, each dedicated to an SCCA discipline. I hope that love of Miatas doesn't lose me your vote.

Spending 2025 as a voting member on the Board as most-recent-past-RE has allowed me to continue supporting all of the ways that we like to enjoy cars. I appreciate the ways in which we have set up the region to overcome some hardships and I want to continue to push to thank you, the members, who have helped us become a thriving Region.

Please consider voting for me to continue as a Board member so that I can continue to vote in support of all of our region programs. I will also continue to advocate for the Region as a whole to show appreciation to all of our members who continue making our events possible. And, as much as my husband would say Mustang and my son would say Corvette, I maintain that Miata is always the answer. Thank you for your consideration.



# Mark Harmon

**Mark Harmon** for Ohio Valley Region SCCA Board of Director

My name is Mark Harmon (no, not the guy on TV) and I am running to serve on your OVR Board of Directors. For those that do not know me I currently serve as the OVR Solo Safety Chief and have done so for the past 3 seasons.

In 1998, as a lifelong "car enthusiast," I attended the Bob Bondurant School of High-Performance Driving for both an introduction and advanced road racing courses and a 1-day course at the Jim Hall Go Kart school. Following these courses I received my SCCA competition license. In late 1999 I accepted a transfer to Central Ohio, and I competed in a showroom stock Neon at both Mid-Ohio and Nelson Ledges. At the conclusion of the 2003 season, I constructed a Spec Miata and competed in that class in 2004. In 2004 the company I was employed with closed, and this caused me to sell the Miata. I was without a car until 2016 when I purchased a Fox Body Mustang and became an occasional attendee of OVR solo events. In 2022, I increased my commitment and volunteered to be the Solo Worker Chief. Following the departure of the then current Safety Chief, I became licensed as a SSS and served in that capacity for the remainder of the season. Since becoming Safety Chief in the 2023 season, I have attended all OVR solo events for all seasons. In 2025 I became licensed as a Solo Safety Instructor.

In my professional life I have been in Banking and Finance since graduating College. After the company with whom I was the Chief Credit Officer closed, I became a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser and continue to hold this license. During my career, I have been responsible for operations management, employee management and interface, research and report preparation, and P&L responsibility.

In addition to my professional career, I have been appointed to and served on multiple citizen volunteer boards in Genoa Township. I am currently in my 3rd term as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals and currently serve as its chairman and have never missed a meeting.

Bottom line: if selected to serve, I show up and do the work.

I will endeavor to attend as many OVR events (Road Race, RallyX, Solo and Social Events) as possible and engage participants for input. We must honor the past and plan for the future. Rather than be reactive we must be proactive. While "we have always done it this way" may still work, listening and new alternative forward thinking must also be considered. As resources, rising costs, land and venues become more challenging, it is necessary for OVR to develop a long-range plan. This process has begun by members of the current Board. This process needs to continue and include the effective use of resources both in the short term and long term.

As your Board of Directors member, I will strive for excellence, promote a welcoming environment, work with fellow board members and make it my mission to promote the goals and ideals of the SCCA. Above all, I will LISTEN.

Regardless of who you vote for, please take the time to vote. I thank you for your consideration.

Mark Harmon



# Dan Hodge

Dan Hodge for Ohio Valley Region SCCA Board of Director

## **Re-Elect Dan Hodge for OVR Board of Directors**

I would like to announce that I am running for re-election to the Board of Directors for the Ohio Valley Region of SCCA. Being a Board member is more than showing up for Board meetings, it is working on programs that will benefit all members of the region. I can assure you that I take the responsibility seriously and do my best to lead the region in a positive and professional manner, regardless of the difficulty and sensitivity of the issue.

### My Platform:

1. Board Transparency.
2. Ensure that funds are spent wisely to benefit all members and protected for future growth of all disciplines
3. Provide support to all OVR programs.
4. Be open to new ideas that benefit all programs as well as membership.
5. Plan for the future of OVR and position OVR as a leader in SCCA.

I have been a member of OVR for 30 years. While I am mainly involved in club racing, I support the efforts of our Autocross, Rallycross and Track Event groups to build and expand those programs. I have supported and voted for of a variety of requests made by our Autocross, Rallycross and Track Event leadership. I strive to address all concerns brought to me in a fair and timely manner.

I have served as Assistant Regional Executive, Co-chair of the Election Committee and Treasurer. I was part of the committee that worked on the revision of the By-Laws and Operations Manual. I am currently a working member of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Since 2023 I have served as Chair Person of the Awards Banquet. For the past 13 years, I have served as the region's Chief Steward for club races, which includes Regional, Majors and Super Tours. I understand the balance of the club needs and the facilities our groups participate at. I am a past Executive Steward and the Deputy Executive Steward for the Great Lakes Division. My experience as Executive Steward makes me uniquely qualified to serve the region as I have had vast experience working with and learning from the National office and other regions.

I am a past recipient of the OVR BOD Service to Racing Award, the Dave Stewart Award, the Barry Baker Award and RE Award. In 2019 I received the GLD John Peterson Service to Racing Award and in 2022 I received the Steve Harris Award for service to the Great Lakes Division. These awards were because of hard work and dedication to OVR.

Thank you for your consideration. Regardless of who you vote for, please take the time to vote.



# Douglas Houdeshell

**Douglas Houdeshell** for Ohio Valley Region SCCA Board of Director

## Bio:

My name is *Douglas Houdeshell*, and I've proudly been an active member of the Ohio Valley Region (OVR) SCCA for the past three years. While my time with OVR may be relatively short, my passion for motorsports spans a lifetime. I grew up wrenching on and racing around go-karts, motorcycles, and cars—an early start that eventually gave way to a career in Mechanical Engineering.

Professionally, I've worked in both automotive manufacturing and the aftermarket parts industry, contributing to a wide range of engineering and design projects. This background has given me a deep understanding of vehicle dynamics, performance, and the importance of innovation in motorsports.

Within OVR, I've been deeply involved in the Solo program, recently completing my second full season as Solo Worker Chief. I've also proudly represented our region at Great Lakes Divisional Series events over the past two years, volunteered for Time Trials, and actively participated in the Long-Term Strategic Planning Committee. For the past year and a half, I've consistently attended Board of Directors meetings, gaining insight into the operations and challenges of our region.

## Why Vote for Me?

I believe that the strength of any organization lies in the active contributions of its members. My personal philosophy is rooted in service—I strive to give more than I receive and aim to leave every person and organization better than I found them.

If elected to the OVR SCCA Board of Directors, I will bring:

- **A Fresh Perspective:** My professional background and hands-on experience in motorsports equip me with a unique lens to view challenges and opportunities.
- **Commitment to Engagement:** I'm passionate about increasing member involvement through grassroots marketing, social media outreach, and community-building initiatives.
- **Dedication to Growth:** I will work tirelessly to ensure our region continues to thrive, evolve, and attract new members while supporting our current community.
- **Proven Involvement:** My track record of volunteering, attending board meetings, and participating in strategic planning demonstrates my commitment to OVR's success.

I'm excited about the future of OVR and would be honored to serve on the Board to help shape that future. Let's work together to make our region stronger, more connected, and more vibrant than ever.

**Vote Douglas Houdeshell** for OVR SCCA Board of Directors. **Let's drive the future—together.**



# Randy Tackett

**Randy Tackett** for Ohio Valley Region SCCA Board of Director

I am asking for your vote to elect me to the Board of Directors. I have been involved in the club as the Solo Co-Chair for 2020, 2021 and 2023 and Assistant Regional Executive from 2021 until 2023. I have been a director in OVR since 2021. My experience with the club includes running with the OVR SCCA Solo program since 2017, filling numerous chief and chair roles for Solo. I have been working as the webmaster for the region and do much of the administration for our MotorsportsReg events. I am also an active participant in the OVR SCCA Rally-X program. I have begun building my skills in SCCA Time Trials and Track Events as well. My professional career has been as an IT professional working for Nationwide Insurance for the last 20 years. My extensive background in technology allowed me to work to modernize the Solo program as we endured a pandemic and the loss of our primary site for Solo. I have also had experience with various volunteer roles outside of the SCCA. As a board member, I would like to continue to modernize the Ohio Valley Region SCCA club to attract new members while working hard to retain our current membership.

Thank you for your consideration.

# Autocross

It's now Mid to Late October and both OVR's Summer Autocross Series and the Wednesday Evening's PAX Series has been completed!

As many of you know, we run both series at Fortress Obetz, which is a wonderful facility. They are multi-purpose facility and as August rolls around football and the associated tail gating take over the parking lot during the weekends, closing out our season sooner than several of the regions that surround us.

This lead to addition of the Popular PAX Challenge Events. These events are held in the evening and finish up in the dark with the facilities lights on and with the Giant Score Board adding its illumination to the site. All the competitors time have the PAX modifier applied to their times, allowing every class, car and driver to compete with one another.

By the time you read this newsletter the champions and both series will have been decided.



Photo Credit: Norberto Leal Zavala



Photo Credit: Nich Carpenter (Above Photos)

# Rally Cross ...

It's easy and sad to sum up OVR's Rally Cross program for the year. We simply didn't have one. This is because we haven't been able to find a site to run our events at. In previous year we have partnered with the Southern West Virginia region to hold events, all while they are great people, the location of their sites are generally three hours away from Columbus.



This year many of our competitors have been running with the Cincinnati Region at their new site at Edgewater Sports Park. This is the first year for their Rallycross program. OVR has helped out by letting the Cincy region use our Rally Cross Trailer and associated equipment.

We would love to be able to hold events in Central Ohio, if a location can be found. If you know of a location then please don't hesitate to reach out to us!



Photo Credit: Nich Carpenter (Above Photos)

# Road Race Updates

It's Fall and the Autumn Classic is upon us. This past weekend was the 44<sup>th</sup> running of this fall staple. At the time of writing, there are 150 entrants for the event spread across 8 groups and 38 different classes! Races are being held on both Saturday and Sunday!

We are always looking for volunteers on racing weekends. If you have an interest in helping out, then you can reach out to our race director for more information:

<https://ovr-scca.org/race-volunteers/>



Photo Credit: Nich Carpenter (Above Photos)

# Social Events

OVE and Racing Line Columbus came together on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> to hold our first ever SIM racing event. This event was limited to OVR members only and was attend by drivers and workers from multiple disciplines of our region.

Racing line’s facility has 12 state of the art driving simulators and also a full service bar. Attendees enjoyed pizza supplied by the region and spent an afternoon SIM racing, with an ultimate final show down race held at the end that included the fastest people from 4 different race groups and a few people that made their way in through a last chance qualifying race.

It was evident that many people are very skilled at this type of motorsport and that some of us are not (that would be me!).

For this event the cars and track were kept simple, with everyone racings identical spec Miata’s and the track being Mid-Ohio. I can personally say that I have never driven on the Mid-Ohio track, but I now have a good idea of where all the barriers are placed and what they look like.

If we do this again in the future, what cars and courses would you like to include?



1	70	MADIN WORKMAN	INT
2	22	KAMDEN HIBBITT	+2.378
3	7	COLE MORGAN	+16.678
4	202	MARK DOWNING	+1.349
5	23	KARLOU JONES	+1.111
6	24	NICK LAWRENCE	+45.450



Racing Line Columbus’s Contact Info:

614-324-1050

<https://www.racinglinecbus.com/>

235 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Columbus Ohio



# Closing

Thank you for reading our newsletter! This new format is a work in progress. In the future we would like to add member stories and additional photos.

If you have wither to submit to future issues then please e-mail us at [observerstand@ovr-scca.org](mailto:observerstand@ovr-scca.org).

In addition to bringing back stories to our newsletter, I would like to include brief write ups of our events. If you wish to help support the region and help by putting together a write up for an event: Road Racing, Track, Autocross, Rally Cross or social events, then please reach out.

I also plan to bring back the classifieds, or as it's better known: "The Rich Grunenwald" Section of the newsletter. If you have car parts to sell or an event to share then send us an e-mail and we will put it into the next issue.

Until next time!

