

The Write Line

~ July 2025 ~



Geoff Leazer, CST Mazda Miata

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

Regional Executive Views

Is it hot enough yet for everyone? Unfortunately as I am writing this, the following week's high temperature will be in the triple digits. I can deal without the extreme hot weather. Not just because of what it does to us physically but the fact that we all know it does not help with our sport. The car with the high temperature does not perform as well and we all know what it does to our tires if we push it too far. I guess for me as well it doesn't help that I do not have air conditioning in my car. But hey, I made that decision but am thinking hard of putting it back in. Haha.

Before the season starts, we and many other Regions are trying to set dates for events. Everyone tries not to have events on the same date for Regions that are fairly close to each other. With the past event for the Salina Region, the Mirror Khana, we did have this predicament (a Divisional in Muskogee, OK; a two-day local event in Lincoln, NE) which made us have to cancel or hopefully postpone the event for the lack of entries. This event is extremely fun and a bit different from your normal autocross. We are looking at possibly getting it rescheduled for our last event on November 2, so once it is confirmed please go on MotorsportReg.com and register. Actually, registration is open now on MSR for

all of our remaining schedule.

Now that we did not have a local event in June (other than our Divisional at the beginning of the month), then especially you should do the Sunflower Solo Showdown event in Yoder on July 27. This is a Salina points event as well if you need to catch up in points for the season. No event at the Salina site for July because we kindly share the site for the KKO "LeadSled Spectacular" event for their setup and takedown. Our own round in the Showdown will be August 17.

With summer in full swing I'll get everyone caught up on my life. My daughter will be in first grade and has my attitude to go with it. My youngest son will be going into fourth grade and taking on golf as well as his involvement with baseball. He has been doing very well pitching for his team and will be looking forward to next season. Now on to my oldest which, if you have been reading, he is legal to drive. With that being said, back to if you have been reading my last REVS I have been wanting a "cheaper" vehicle to Autocross. I did find a 1995 Honda Prelude that needed some work that my oldest and I are working together on. Yes, it is a Honda and not a Toyota but it is more for him to learn how to drive a manual and learn some things about vehicles. You should see the Prelude, my son and the AllTrac out at future events.

Thanks for reading and everyone have a great rest of Summer.

—Andlee, RE Salina Region

► Next Event ◀

Sunflower Solo Showdown @ Yoder ~ July 27

► It's Wichita Region's turn this month for our annual challenge event ◀

This event counts in the Salina Region championship

Entry Fees: SCCA Members \$30, non-members \$50 (includes Weekend Membership)

Check-in/tech opens 8 am, closes 9 am ~ Coursewalk 8 am

Novice coursewalk 9 am ~ Drivers' Meeting 9:20 ~ Cars on course by 9:30 am

Pre-register on MotorsportsReg.com

Credit card not charged until after the event.

Next Business Meeting

August 21 ~ 7 p.m.
on Zoom

Contact Andlee for Zoom link

*Business meetings are open
to all members and guests*



Board Members ~ 2025

• Regional Executive

ANDLEE PHENGPHACHANH, Salina
785-320-0005 / andlee.pheng@gmail.com

• Assistant Regional Executive

MASON LIBBY, Salina
wingmans1@hotmail.com

• Past R.E. VACANT

• Secretary

CHANDLER BROWN, Great Bend
620-793-0806 / cwbrown@hbcomm.net

• Treasurer

SHARON BRILLHART, Wichita
316-522-1339 / scovert63@gmail.com

• Solo Chair

PHELAN GAGNON, Salina
Phelangcell@yahoo.com

• Member At Large/Chief Registrar

NANCY SMITH, Minneapolis
785-243-5192 / mustang.nanny@yahoo.com

• Member At Large/Chief of Safety

DENNIS SMITH, Minneapolis
785-243-6753 / broncosmitty@gmail.com

• Member At Large/Equipment Manager

JUSTIN GAGNA, Salina
jrgagna@gmail.com

• Member At Large/Chief of Tech

HENRY BRILLHART, Wichita
316-522-1339 / hankb72@cox.net

• Member At Large/Editor & Membership

ROCKY ENTRIEN, Salina
785-827-5143 / rocky@spitfire4.com

• Member At Large/Social Media/Facebook

ARTT MANN, Manhattan
kskartracing@gmail.com

• Member At Large

ABNER PERNEY, Salina
785-822-8570 / abscars@yahoo.com

• Webmaster

JULIE MINDRUP, Salina
785-404-9286 / jmindrup@salinakansas.org

Salina Region Schedule ~ 2025

All events at Berkley Family Recreational Area unless noted otherwise

Event

July 27 – Solo #8 – Sunflower Solo Showdown 25.1
Aug 17 – Solo #11 – Sunflower Solo Showdown 25.2
Sep 6 – Solo #9 – AfterNats
Sep 7 – Solo #10 – AfterNats
Oct 12 – Solo #12 – Octoberfast 36
Nov. 2 – Solo #13 – Solo, maybe a Mirror Khana

Chair

Wichita Region at Yoder
Andlee Phengphachanh
Mason Libby
Mason Libby
Salina Region Board
Dennis Smith

Would you like to chair an event? Contact Phelan Gagnon

A Salina Divisional (if held) and Solo Nationals (Sep. 1-5, 2025) also score in Salina Region's Championship, with bonus points. Lowest four scores are thrown out, five if we do a Divisional

MiDiv



SPS/R&S MiDiv Solo Series – 2024

~~May 3-4 – Wichita @ Yoder KS (Road Yoder)~~
~~June 8-9 – Salina @ Salina (Berkley Family Rec Area)~~
~~June 28-29 – NoOkla @ Muskogee (Davis Field)~~
Aug 2-3 – Nebraska @ Lincoln (Lincoln Airpark)
Sep 20-21 – Kansas @ Independence KS (Independence Airport)

SCCA Solo Nationals ~ Sep. 1-5, 2025 ~ Lincoln, NE

MEETING MINUTES

(Subject to correction and approval at the next Salina Region board meeting)

July 17 board meeting not held for lack of quorum. Present were RE Andlee Phengphachanh, Rocky Entrién, Justin Gagna and Phelan Gagnon. Several board members had family conflicts.

In informal discussion it was suggested the November 2 event could be a rescheduled Mirror Khana, with the need for at least 25 entrants to do a safe event. If fewer sign up, the date would be a regular solo. –Rocky Entrién.

Signs YOU may need an Autocross intervention...

- You own a garden sprayer but never actually used it for yard work
- You anxiously await for National to post the event schedule so you can request time off for the year
- You know the actual people behind brad@tillerack and devin@tillerack
- You tell all your friends if they plan their wedding during Autocross season they can plan on you not attending
- You know exactly what a post that says "IN" means
- You think there are WAAAAAY too many classes but get out the pitchforks if they even think of eliminating yours
- Cargo shorts and floppy hats are staples in your closet
- You always post pics of car part boxes on your doorstep only to realize 2 weeks before the season starts you haven't actually installed anything
- You go around grid comparing tire gauge readings with everyone to see how accurate they are
- You have a hard time resisting the urge to slalom around construction zone cones

WHAT DID WE MISS??





ROAD TRIP!

It's time for our annual friendly with Wichita Region, the Sunflower Solo Showdown (not "slowdown!"). Two events, one there (Yoder) this month, on July 27, and then one here Aug. 17.

The main idea is just to get together and play cars with our friends to the south. Oh, yes, we keep score, but the true goal is #FunWithCars.

That artwork above comes from Wichita Region's post on Facebook. Yes, they are doing a doubleheader, July 26 and 27, but only Sunday counts for the Sunflower Showdown (and Salina Region points).

If you're counting, this will be the 12th Showdown. The first was in 2013. Wichita won the first two. Salina won the last two. Total for 11 years is Salina 5, Wichita 3, Kansas 3 (Kansas isn't playing this year, no suitable site). There were no Showdown events in 2017.

The round in Yoder also nicely fills a hole in our schedule when our BFRA site is not available to us. So we go down to play on their concrete. As always, the event counts in Salina Region's season championship, and ours counts in their series.

Each day is a separate signup on MotorsportsReg.

The Road Yoder Solo Site is easy to find. From Salina just head south on I-135, veer off onto K-61 just past McPherson. As you get to Hutchinson, hang a left onto 17th street (which becomes Airport Road, which becomes Yoder Road). When you get to Yoder turn right onto Red Rock Road through the town and beyond to the site entrance (gravel road) on the left.

Check-in is 8-9 am – you'll find what heat you drive, grid slot and work assignment there. Tech also, but they will honor our Annual Tech (as we do theirs). Driver's meeting at 9:20, runs begin immediately after. Their "Road Yoder" site is similar to ours, perhaps half again as wide, and also nice grippy concrete. Don't touch the electric fences (it's there to keep the cows in).

The weather report is sunny and hot, so hydrate!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

- Cameron Kidwell, Topeka.
- Mark Shook, Salina.

Two new names that popped up on our member list this month. Don't know yet what they drive but we look forward to meeting them at our upcoming events.

SCCA Welcoming Environment Statement

The Mission of SCCA is to fuel a safe, fun and exciting motorsports experience for automotive enthusiasts. The Club's Vision is to be the preferred motorsports community in the United States, built on fun, shared passion and access to an exhilarating motorsports experience. In all its activities, SCCA seeks to foster an atmosphere that encourages living the Values of the club, which include:

Excellence: The Spirit of a Competitor

Service: The Heart of a Volunteer

Passion: The Attitude of an Enthusiast

Team: The Art of Working Together

Experience: The Act of Wowing our Community

Stewardship: The Mindset of an Owner

SCCA strives to ensure ALL participants at its events and activities enjoy a welcoming environment. SCCA supports equality of opportunity and treatment for all participants, and will make every effort to maintain an environment that is free of harassment, discrimination and any behavior that interferes with a safe, fun and exciting experience. A commitment to a welcoming environment and the SCCA Values is expected of all members and attendees, including drivers, workers, crew, guests, staff, contractors and exhibitors, and other participants at SCCA activities, sessions and social events when representing the SCCA in print or electronic media.



Events

Elsewhere - 2025



A calendar of AutoX and RallyX events by the Wichita, Kansas, Kansas City, Nebraska, NeOkla and Oklahoma Regions of SCCA. Go see how others do it!

‡ = Test & Tune / § = Street Survival School

▷ = Starting Line School / ● = Region or novice school

ALWAYS CONFIRM THE EVENT BEFORE MAKING A LONG TRIP!

(* = Salina Region autocross on this date)

AUTOCROSS

July 26.....▷ Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
July 27.....* Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Aug 1.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE (Evo School)
Aug 2-3SCCA ProSolo, Burns Flat, OK
.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE (Divisional Champ)
Aug 9.....‡. NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Aug 10.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Aug 16.....§. Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....‡. Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
Aug 17.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
Aug 23Oklahoma @ Remington Park
.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Aug 24Oklahoma @ Remington Park
.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Aug 29-31ProSolo Finale @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
Sep 1-5.....Solo Nationals @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
Sep 13.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park
Sep 14.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park
Sept. 20.....Kansas @ Municipal Airport, Independence, KS
Sept. 21.....* Kansas @ Municipal Airport, Independence, KS
Oct 4.....‡. Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
.....§. Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Oct 5.....Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Oct 11.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Oct 12.....* NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Oct 18.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park
Oct 19.....Oklahoma @ Remington Park
Oct 25.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Oct 26Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
Nov 1.....‡Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
.....NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Nov 2*Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln NE
.....* NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
Nov 9.....Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS (Endurocross)

RALLYCROSS

Jul 27.....* NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
Aug 23.....Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley MO
Aug 24NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
Sep 21.....Kansas City @ Ray Rocks Offroad Resort, Rayville MO

Sep 27.....‡ Nebraska @ Green Valley Ranch, Kearney NE
Sep 28.....Nebraska @ Green Valley Ranch, Kearney NE
.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
Oct 5NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
Oct 12Nebraska @ Green Valley Ranch, Kearney NE
Oct 17-19..... RallyCross Nationals @ Hollytree Off Road Park, Hollytree, AL
Nov 9.....NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
Nov 16.....Nebraska @ Green Valley Ranch, Kearney NE

Go

Racing!



Five MiDiv road course tracks are within a 5-hour drive of Salina. Be part of the action as a race worker -- flagging on corners, timing, grid, tech, etc. Or be a driver?

• Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett OK • Hedge Hollow Raceway, Adrian, MO
• Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings NE • Ozarks International Raceway, Gravois Mills MO
• I-29 Speedway, Pacific Junction, IA

ROAD RACING

Aug 9-10.....Majors @ Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, NE
Sep 29-Oct 5..The Runoffs @ Road America, Elkhart Lake WI

MIDIV TIME TRIALS SERIES

Aug 9-10.....@ Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, NE
Aug 23-24.....@ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail, CO
Sep 20-21 ... Time Trials Nationals @ PittRace, Wampum, PA
Sep 21.....@ I-29 Speedway, Pacific Junction, IA
TBD.....@ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett OK

TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

Jul 25@ Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Fountain, CO
Aug. 1.....@ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Hallett, OK
Sep 24.....@ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail, CO

If victory had a smell, this would be it
—Sonja Ver Mulm



Autocross success starts with a successful stroll

By J.G. Pasterjak
Grassroots Motorsports

The great – and also terrible – thing about autocross is that there's no practice. Every time you turn a wheel on that course, the clock is running, so maximizing that seat time starts with a productive coursewalk.

Autocrosses are won or lost before you ever hit that throttle. The only chance you'll ever have to get a read on pretty much any autocross course is going to be on foot during the pre-event coursewalk, so making sure you're gathering the most info and properly internalizing it is key to success.

With that in mind, here are some tips that we like to think about when trying to make the most of our coursewalks.

Cut the Chitchat •• Yes, a huge part of the appeal of autocross is the social aspect. Hanging out with car-loving friends on a sunny weekend may be one of the most enjoyable aspects of the sport, but you're going to have to take a break from your pals for at least one coursewalk.

The goal here is to get a look at the complete course without having to constantly switch gears. Ideally you want to take multiple distraction-free strolls, but we all know the reality here: If you get in one walk without chatting with a pal or petting a cute dog or taking a phone call or answering a text, you're pretty lucky.

If you do run into a distraction, or a chatty friend, stop walking, because the last thing you need to do is cover distance while your brain is somewhere else. Pause the walk while you deal with your other business, then return to the coursewalk when you can devote your full attention to it.

Learn in Chunks •• We find that a good way to learn an autocross course is to progressively build the memory in your brain. Just like your old Simon game started you out with one light, then two, then three, making it easier to progress to the final multiple-light sequence, the same progression works for learning autocross courses, especially complex ones.

What this looks like in practice is walking a small section of the course and finding a natural "rest" point—maybe a straightaway or another section where your eyes can shift farther ahead. Take a short pause and then mentally drive the course to that point.

A couple hundred yards later, pause again and mentally drive all the sections you've learned to that point. We find that stacking smaller sections on top of each other in your brain is a better way to learn longer, more challenging courses than trying to internalize the entire thing at once.

When you're done – and it may take multiple walks to get to this point – you should be able to drive the entire course in your head, from start to finish, meaning you'll have few, if any, surprises on your first real lap. We've known top drivers who could close their eyes, start a stopwatch, and mentally drive a lap within tenths of a second of their actual lap time. If this is you, congratulations, you're a total mindfreak, but you also possess a valuable skill that can lead to great autocross success.

The Eyes Have It •• Vision is your primary weapon in an autocross situation. Whoever gets their eyes in the right place at the right time is going to have an advantage when it comes to getting through the cones the quickest.

But think about where your eyes are when you're walking versus where they are when you're in the car. Depending on how tall you

are and what you're driving, you could have a 2- or even 3-foot vertical difference.

Get those eyes to car level as much as possible during a walk, particularly at and when approaching corner entries. This also applies when entering complex sections where you're looking for exits early in a maneuver.

Also remember where your eyes are going to be relative to the outside boundaries of a course. We frequently want to walk an "ideal" line, maximizing our turning radius, closely clipping apexes and using every inch of the road on the exit. But your eyes are never going to be any closer to cones on your right than one car width, and they won't be any closer to cones on your left than one door width.

Keep this in mind when you're walking and build your sight pictures as they'll actually be viewed from the car, not in your idealized world where your car is only as wide as your shoes.

Don't Look Back •• This one might be a hot take, but we're also going to suggest you never look backward during your coursewalk.

Yes, you can make an argument that you may see a line or a spatial arrangement of



maneuvers by looking backward that you didn't see while looking forward, but we're going to say those are edge cases and not typical. In general, you don't want to be crowding your brain with visual data that you don't need. Concentrate on getting a true preview of the course, not trying to find Easter eggs in the design by viewing it from various angles. In the car, you're only going to approach it from one direction, so that needs to be your primary focus.

This is a tricky concept to explain in words, but an autocross course will drive closer to how it "feels" than to how it measures out. What this means in practice is that the visual data you get through the windshield will most closely match how you actually attack the course than the mathematical details of the particular maneuver.

Good course designers will use that match to create situations that will have certain characteristics, but you only ever *really* know how a course is going to behave once it's on the actual pavement. Maybe there's an expansion strip, or a frost heave, or some background complexities that make the view through a certain section look different than it does on paper from above.

Trust your eyes the most—and trusting your eyes means not giving them information they don't need, like what the slalom looks like from the other direction.

Pause and Review •• Multiple walks are usually a good idea, but as when taking multiple runs, each subsequent walk after your first is more valuable if you approach it with a plan.

Can you mentally drive the course in its entirety? If so, then focus on fine-tuning your approach, or finding areas that might be "traps" for carrying too much momentum, or identifying areas that may drive narrower than they look.

Remember, you can turn a lot quicker over less distance in a pair of Adidas than you can in a Camaro, and 3600 pounds of car has more inertia than you and whatever you have in your pockets. Once you learn the course, concentrate on trying to identify these spots.

If you don't know the course after your first walk, that needs to be your primary goal on any subsequent walks. Microanalyzing a certain section will never gain you as much as not knowing a particular section will lose you, so committing the course to memory should be top priority. Find seconds, then tenths, then hundredths.

••• JOIN the Sports Car Club of America •••

It's EASY. Go to www.scca.com AND CLICK ON JOIN SCCA TODAY!

National membership includes a "local" region of your choice. This becomes your Region of Record. Normally your RoR is the area in which you live, but it doesn't have to be. We have members who live in other Regions' territories, and some of those regions have members who live in our territory.

You may also join as many other regions as you like, paying their local dues for the purpose of winning local championship points and participating in their programs. These are "Associate" or "Dual Region" memberships. Salina Region's Associate Members are fully-vested members eligible for all our championships, voting rights, region offices and other member benefits. "Associate" membership only means region-of-record is elsewhere.

You must be a member to enter SCCA events. There are several different types of membership available, including Regular, Family, First Gear (under 25) and Military, plus short-term Trial (free) and Weekend (\$15) Memberships. Questions? Call Salina Region membership chair Rocky Entriiken at 785-827-5143 or e-mail rocky@spitfire4.com.

••• Associate memberships •••

- Associate Memberships in Salina Region expire concurrent with National and Region-of-Record memberships. All Associate memberships paid direct to Salina Region are notified to SCCA Membership and expire on their National expiration date. Associate members are fully-vested members of Salina Region, although their Region-of-Record is elsewhere.
- Annual dues are \$15.00 both for single memberships and for family memberships (which includes spouse and children age 20 and younger).
- To become an Associate Member of Salina Region, contact SCCA Membership (call 1-800-770-2055) and ask to be included as a member in Salina Region. The Region's dues will be paid at that time and added to your renewal fees.
- Or, at renewal time, renew online and you will find an option to "Add Region." Scroll down to find Salina Region in the drop-down menu.
- If you choose to pay dues direct to Salina Region (for example, at an event), we will notify SCCA and your Salina Region membership will become part of your National membership renewal.
- Mailed subscriptions are available to non-members, \$15 for the calendar year.

E-mail or U.S. Mail?

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Sports Car Club of America
2731 Scott Avenue
Salina, KS 67401