

The Write Line

~ August 2026 ~



Tracy Presnell, CST BMW Z3 Roadster

The official newsletter of the Salina Region SCCA

Regional Executive Views

We have to always stay humble. Humble makes us remember what it was like in the past as we progress and become better. I say this as we officially have had our first event on the new asphalt on our site at the Berkley Family Recreational Area. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend but I've since had both negative and positive feedback.

If you haven't been out to our site for a while, the first 25 feet on both sides had broken up concrete. Now this never deterred us from making great fun courses that avoided these areas. Most SCCA regions deal with sites that aren't perfect and has things to avoid.

But now we no longer need to worry about areas of the pavement to avoid as we have the full 150-foot width as well as the full length. It comes with some learning as concrete and asphalt are different surfaces and the grip is not the same. But who doesn't like a challenging course with many different variables? Here's a shout-out to the City of Salina who included the repair on its current plan and budget for roadwork over the next couple of years – *THANK YOU!!*

As we go into the second half of the season we have made a few changes for some future events. September 19-20 is a two-day event with Saturday being a regular

solo and Sunday being our famous Mirror Khana.

Now fast-forward to October 11 when we'll have Salina Region's other annual event, our famous OctoberFAST (no pun intended). This is our members appreciation event. If you are a Salina Region member the event is free. Plus lunch will be provided for \$10. *But wait! There's more!* That day we'll also have an After Party at Flareside Performance, a local tuner shop WITH a dyno. More details to come as we finalize everything so please mark your calendars.

I would like to thank everyone for a great season so far and want to invite everyone and some, to help finish it strong as we break in the "new" site.

Thanks for reading.

—Andlee, Salina Region RE



► Next Event ◀

Solo – Sept. 19

Mirror Khana XLIV – Sept. 20

After Party at Flareside Performance, 504 Francis St., Salina – 4 pm to dusk

Berkley Family Recreation Area, 841 Markley Road, Salina

Entry fees: SCCA members \$33 one day; \$48 both days.

Non-members \$53/\$68 (includes Weekend Membership)

Check-in/Tech opens 8 am, closes 9 am ~ Coursewalk approx. 8:30 am

Novice guided coursewalk 9:15 am ~ Drivers meeting 9:30 am

Registration on MotorsportsReg.com

Credit card not charged until after the event.

Next Business Meeting

Sept. 19 ~ after
Saturday's event

Location TBA

*Business meetings are open
to all members and guests*



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Salina Region Schedule ~ 2026

All events at Berkley Family Recreational Area unless noted otherwise

Event

Sep 19 ~ Solo #8
Sep 20 ~ Solo #9, Mirror Khana XLIV
Oct 11 ~ Solo #10, OctoberFast 37
Nov 1 ~ Solo #11

Chair

Chandler Brown
Andlee Phengphachanh
Salina Region Board
?

Would you like to chair an event in 2026? Contact Phelan Gagnon

A Salina Divisional (if held) and Solo Nationals (Sep. 7-11, 2026) 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 - 2026

May 2-3 - Wichita @ Yoder KS (Road Yoder)

June 13-14 - NeOkla @ Muskogee (Davis Field)

Aug 1-2 - Nebraska @ Lincoln (Lincoln Airpark)

SCCA Solo Nationals ~ Sep. 7-11, 2026 ~ Lincoln, NE

MEETING MINUTES

(Subj9t to correction and approval at the next Salina Region board meeting)

Call to Order – by RE Andlee Phengphachanh at 7:40 pm on Aug. 20, 2026, via Zoom. Also attending: Sharon Brillhart, Rocky Enriken, Phelan Gagnon, Mason Libby, Artt Mann, and Nancy Smith, creating a quorum to enable the meeting to start. Also attending, Tyler Carlgren from the Kansas State University FSAE chapter, and former member Aaron Loggan and daughter Illiana.

Minutes – Mason moved to approve the July 8 meeting minutes as presented, Nancy seconded, passed.

Treasurer's Report – The payment from the Evolution School in April was received. Rocky moved to deposit the payment in the savings account earmarked for a new trailer, Artt seconded. Passed. Artt then moved to approve the treasurer's report, Mason seconded, passed.

Old Business – Lunch at Octoberfast (Oct. 11) – Phelan will be the chef. Cost will be \$10 per person, payable either in person or through MotorsportsReg.com (which will incur MSR's \$2 booking fee).

A post-event party at Flareside Performance, a Salina tuner shop, will be Oct. 11 following Octoberfast, from approximately 4 pm to dusk.

New Business – Before a quorum had assembled, Tyler Carlgren was given a formal SCCA document covering the borrowing of region equipment for K-State's Formula Wheat FSAE event in October. A formal motion to adopt the document was tabled for (at that time) a lack of quorum, to be voted upon at the next board meeting.

Discussion of the August event and the new asphalt repairing the broken concrete at the Berkley Family Recreational Area. Both the start and the finish were on the asphalt.

Discussion of term limits for the six elected/appointed board members specified in Region bylaws (Regional Executive, Assistant RE, Past RE, Secretary, Treasurer, Solo Chair). Per the bylaws, RE, ARE and Secretary are elected, they plus the Past RE appoint the Treasurer and Solo Chair. Andlee offered a motion designating three-year terms, which was withdrawn after discussion and lack of a second. Sharon said she was willing to serve as Treasurer for one more year, Phelan said he intends to step down as Solo Chair after this year.

It was noted that Geoff Leazer has received his license as a Safety Steward.

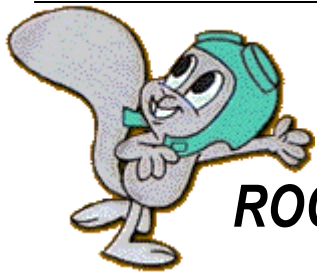
September event – Sept. 19-20, Saturday will be a regular event, Sunday will be a Mirror Khana. Entry fee will be the usual \$33 for one day (either day), \$48 for two days.

Next meeting: Sept. 19 following the Saturday event, location TBA.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm.

Submitted: Rocky Enriken, Secretary Pro Tem





ASSORTED NUTS FROM ROCKET J. SQUIRREL

—ROCKY ENTRIKEN

First off, that artwork comes from Wichita Region's Facebook page. Credit where credit is due.

Second, it just happens to state exactly what Salina Region also needs.

It's an eternal problem. One not just local to middle Kansas. It strikes at regions nationwide – find someone to lead the club, someone to helm the local region.

"Great Clubs don't just happen ... People make them happen!" Truth!

People ... that's YOU!

Thing is, these jobs are really not such overwhelming assignments. Not even simply whelming. For the most part they are really simple, and don't demand much time but they are vitally important, for without someone to be The Leader it's damned difficult to follow.

Just like our neighbors to the south, Salina Region needs:

- A new Regional Executive
- A new Assistant RE
- A new Solo Chair
- And people willing to take on sundry responsibilities such as timing chief, tech chief, chief of safety, etc., etc., most of whom become ex-officio members of our board – the people who make our region happen.

We are a Small region. That is an official SCCA designation describing a region of less than 200 members. We have a tad more than 100, and that count includes everyone in Family memberships, even babies.

There is a handful of regions in SCCA labeled Jumbo regions who may have a couple thousand members, some own real estate including race tracks, some are big business, even with paid officials. That's not us. SCCA currently has 115 active regions – local clubs – and about half of them are Small regions. Like us their primary activity is autocross, maybe also rallycross and/or road rally.

But what all have in common is someone is in charge. In charge of what? Most Regional Executives don't spend their days sitting behind a large desk making momentous decisions and high policy. They're just volunteers, working a day job, enjoying #FunWithCars with whatever's in their driveway,

enjoying the social aspect of SCCA, same as all the rest of us. But they're still the person SCCA asks when they have a question, the one who takes the responsibility to fill in the forms, to send in the fees, to inform themselves of the rules and policies, to moderate the board meetings, to delegate other responsibilities.

What is a Regional Executive NOT? He's not really a boss, not a dictator, not some know-it-all or savant. It's not his club, it's OUR CLUB!

Take a look at that illustration I borrowed from our neighbors to the south. Which of those seven characters is the RE? You can't really tell, can you? Because all seven of them

are club leaders, all seven of them are involved in making the club function, to make the club move forward, to make the club happen.

Myself, I'm now a 55-year member of SCCA. I've been president of two independent sports car clubs and two different SCCA regions. The first time I became a club president I'd driven one autocross (my brother's car at an

event in New York), and one road rally in Kansas City, but I was excited enough to design a road rally of my own in Lawrence. The first time I was elected RE (of Kansas Region) I had not yet been an SCCA member for even two years.

When we elected Andlee Phengphachanh RE of Salina Region in 2022, he had been a member barely two years. The point being it doesn't take a ton of experience or knowledge to do this, just a willingness to do it.

So, here's the call to Salina Region members: Step Up.

Be a leader. Throw your hat in the ring to stand for Regional Executive, or Assistant RE, or Secretary – those are the three elected officers of the club.

You won't be thrown into the deep end clueless. The Past RE is an automatic board member so you have that person providing experienced guidance. There are others also involved who've been there before.

We need a new Solo Chair too, one of the more important board members because he sets the calendar for our season and makes the reservations with the City of Salina for our event dates. The three elected members, plus Past RE, appoint the Solo Chair because we want to know a capable person has that job.

Are you willing? Contact Andlee or me and let's talk. We'll answer your questions and get you on the ballot.





So there was our first event on the new blacktop repairing the crumbling concrete along the edges of our Berkley Family Recreation Area site. **THANK YOU CITY OF SALINA!** What a marvelous improvement! Yes, we “tested” it. The start was on the westside asphalt patch, several of us grabbing a moment of tire chirp on takeoff. Then the first slalom going back-and-forth on and off the black part, and finally the finish on the east patch (I hit the rev limiter on my Miata there at least once) followed by the wonderfully uncluttered return to my grid slot without loose stones. After the event, I went back and looked where we’d run on it, could hardly tell we’d been there.

Twenty drivers came out for this initial foray on the new pavement. Some worried it might be a bit loose, just not as grippy as the old concrete, but candidly I couldn’t tell much difference going up that initial slalom between right turn (on concrete) or left turn (on asphalt). Of course, that was on the beginning part of the course where we’d started from zero mph.

Mason Libby, aided by Nick Lake, built the course, the slalom followed by a pair of eyebrows and an angled Chicago box, then a crossover to a clockwise turnaround, zoom into a 4-cone pass past the dog park, a couple more eyebrows, one last slalom into the finish – most of us finishing in the upper 40-sec range.

Before the weekend, Aaron Loggan threw out a challenge asking if anyone could beat his XA class yaller Mercedes for

~~ Blacktop • PAX Rankings ~~

Driver	Class	Best	Index	PAX
Sharon Brillhart	ESL	45.800	0.788	36.090
Jason Rash	ES	46.148	0.788	36.364
Mason Libby	HS	46.833	0.780	36.529
Don Herrick	HS	47.869	0.780	37.337
Rocky Entriiken	ES	48.453	0.788	38.181
Henry Brillhart	ES	48.569	0.788	38.272
Geoff Leazer	CST	46.294	0.829	38.777
Brent Holm	CAMC	46.663	0.828	38.637
Nancy Smith	HSL	49.731	0.780	38.790
R Abner Perney	FS	49.807	0.817	38.849
Aaron Loggan	XA	45.469	0.861	39.148
Chris Lawrie	SM	45.704	0.870	39.762
Tracy Presnell	CST	48.321	0.829	40.058
Nicholas Lake	FSP	50.404	0.833	41.986
Cameron Dawson	FS	51.620	0.817	42.173
Darla Presnell	CSL	53.390	0.809	43.459
John Phillippe	FS	54.749	0.817	44.729
Benny Dawson	HS	61.566	0.780	48.021
Tarin Carlson	FSP	60.568	0.833	50.453
Illiana Loggan	CSL	62.876	0.814	51.181

Fast Time of Day. Turns out he put his money where his mouth was, claiming FTD by a slim margin – Chris Lawrie was only 0.235 sec slower in his hoodless Street Mod Viper. And then third-quick Sharon Brillhart’s mild-mannered ESL Toyota MR2 only another 0.096 back. Of course, being that quick in a Street-class machine meant Sharon was Top PAX for the day.

The closest battle for class honors was in HS, where Mason Libby outran Don Herrick by 1.036 sec. Being the only 4-car class, both of them trophied.

Pfanner Pfilosophy

Racing is a selfish sport ... until the helmet comes off

I've spent my working life around highly competitive people, and thankfully most of them are the kind of folks you want to know. They are hard-working, smart, and talented. They'll give you nothing on the race track and then buy you a beer after the race. A few are better than that because they take the same competitive fire and put it into the people around them, so the whole team comes up a level.

Racing is a selfish sport. Once you're strapped in and flipped the visor down, you're on your own. You might share a garage in practice, or you might have come up the ladder with the racer on the grid next to you, but none of it counts once the green flag drops. The timing system doesn't know who your friends are. In something that can hurt or kill you, a little selfishness is justified.

The true competitor's selfishness switches off after the race. It's aimed at the result, and when the helmet comes off, they have a code of honor, and they keep it. He or she wants you competing at your best, because there's nothing rewarding in beating a weak version of you.

The other kind isn't playing to get the result. He or she is playing to get you. They need you to lose and need to see it hit you hard, and if it hurts, all the better. There's a name for the psychological wiring. It is called the Dark Tetrad. To these selfish players, everybody else is disposable or an enemy.

This isn't just a racing thing. You find it in business, in politics, in any sport, in any creative discipline. or in any

society that has a recorded history.

Here's the hard truth. In many cases, you can't get rid of them. They control the narrative, or they control the resources, or both. So, you're stuck with them. Anybody who's sat across a conference table, a desk or stared into a video conference screen dealing with one knows the feeling, and understands there's no easy way forward. What works here isn't aggressive reaction, mirroring their behavior. Just give it time and focus on what you can control, and what you do best as you simply outlast them.

I learned that young, while racing in Formula Ford, back when 50-car grids were normal and a lot of the young racers in them were headed for the top of the sport. I'd locked onto an arrogant, aggressive racer I felt that I needed to beat, and my wise team manager leaned into the cockpit before I rolled off pre-grid and said, “Let him go. You don't want to be part of his accident. He'll be off the track in five laps.” And he was. That same wise man taught me racing is learning, and so is life. I've used “let him go” more off the track than on it. You don't have to win every duel. You just have to not be part of the accident when it comes and stay focused on the real competition and the true goal.

In the end, your only true competition is staring back at you in the mirror. Your fears and your dreams are balanced in the power of now, and what you chose to do with it. —Paul Pfanner



Class	Driver	No.	Car	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Run 6	Best
CSL	• Darla Presnell	33	2002 BMW Z3	58.138	58.218	55.394	54.076	53.590	54.051	53.590
CSL	• Iliana Ali Loggan	43	2001 Mercedes-Benz SLK320	156.466	124.094	97.656	72.626+1	65.369+1	60.876+1	62.876
ES	• Jason Rash	1	2000 Mazda Miata	49.726	47.574	48.609	48.143	47.153	46.148	46.148
ES	• Rocky Entriiken	4	2000 Mazda Miata	50.759	48.453	49.513	51.115	49.133+2	D.N.F.	48.453
ES	• Henry Brillhart	48	1999 Mazda Miata	49.681	50.436	48.311+1	48.569	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	48.569
ESL	• Sharon Brillhart	28	2003 Toyota MR2	46.675	46.183	46.014+2	46.927+1	45.249+1	45.800	45.800 PAX/FL
FS	• Cameron Dawson	29	1998 Camaro Z28	54.300	51.473+1	51.620	51.963	52.266	51.941+1	51.620
FS	• John Phillippe	43	2015 Dodge Challenger	D.N.F.	D.N.F.	56.596	54.749	56.235+1	56.310+1	54.749
HS	• Mason Libby	62	2007 Pontiac G5	49.487	48.204	47.348	47.118	46.925	46.833	46.833
HS	• Don Herrick	8	2015 Ford Fiesta ST	50.945	51.321	49.240	47.869	48.165	48.033	47.869
HS	• R. Abner Perney	5	2012 Fiat 500 Abarth	D.N.F.	50.436	50.494+1	50.561	51.161	49.807	49.807
HS	• Benny Dawson	57	2009 Chevrolet Cobalt	76.212	68.721	65.883	63.295	61.566	61.929	61.566
HSL	• Nancy Smith	77	2013 Mini Cooper	53.556	51.327	50.404	50.783	50.100	49.731	49.731
CST	• Geoff Leazer	24	2003 Mazda Miata	48.568	47.026	47.292	46.294	46.713	47.323+1	46.294
CST	• Tracy Presnell	28	1999 BMW Z3 Roadster	49.755	48.641	49.102+1	48.555	48.633	48.321	48.321
CAMC	• Brent Holm	5	2011 Mustang GT	52.280	48.993	48.658	48.104	48.420	46.663	46.663
XA	• Aaron Loggan	55	1999 Mercedes-Benz SLK55	46.670	46.203	46.542	45.627	45.469	45.776	45.469 FTD
FSP	• Nicholas Lake	11	2005 Ford Focus	55.683	52.766	50.745	50.908	50.404	51.117	50.404
FSP	• Tarin Carlson	2	2002 Chevrolet S10	72.212	68.925	64.784	63.430	61.194	60.568	60.568
SM	• Chris Lawrie	50	1996 Dodge Viper	49.403	47.778	46.192	46.618	45.704	45.663+1	45.704
			• Trophy	FTD – Fast Time of Day	FL – Fast Lady	PAX – Top PAX				



• SALINA REGION MEMBER **Points after Blacktop** * QUALIFIED FOR AWARDS (MIN. 4 LOCAL EVENTS)

SS	Rick Chapman*	*48	<i>For most of the season all competitors are listed. However, only Salina Region members are eligible for championship awards and must be members before Octoberfast and run at least four local events. As of Octoberfast all non-member points are stripped.</i>										Andlee Phengphachanh	36
AS	Chandler Brown*	*45											Darla Presnell*	36
	Frank Wiethann	12											Everett Hopkins	19
BS	Matthew Grieb	12											† = required, 3 different classes	
	Lucas Hitz	12												
CS	Greg Dunham	21	GS	Russell Blume	12	Alex Redman*	36	Nick Pahl	21	♦ PAX – Top 10 ♦				
	Hank Dunham	12	GSL	Darla Presnell*	24	Geoff Leazer*	35	Matthew Kuffel	19	ESL	Sharon Brillhart*	593		
CSL	Darla Presnell*	12	HS	Mason Libby*	*70	Zachary Damiani	16	Phelan Gagnon*	12	ES	Jason Rash*	580		
	Illiana Ali Loggan	9		Don Herrick*	43	Mike Herrick	12	CAMT	Justin Blew*	12	HS	Mason Libby*	569	
ES	Jason Rash*	*84		Dennis Smith*	36	Israel Lopez De Jesus	12	XA	Aaron Loggan	12	ES	Henry Brillhart*	549	
	Henry Brillhart*	*57		Phelan Gagnon*	25	Brandon Spencer	9		Artt Mann*	12	ES	Rocky Entriken*	543	
	Rocky Entriken*	*55		Abner Perney*	23	Bret Vaughn	9	XB	Samuel Krauss	12	HSL	Nancy Smith*	532	
ESL	Sharon Brillhart*	*84		Everett Hopkins	12	CSTL	Dagmar De Jesus Roman	12	FSP	Nicholas Lake*	*84	CAMC	Brent Holm*	525
FS	Abner Perney*	*42		Doug Gill	9	DST	Michael Groeneveld	12		Tarin Carlson	9	FS/HS	Abner Perney*	510
	John LaRandeau*	36		Benny Dawson	6	EST	Mike Herrick	36	SM	Chris Lawrie	12	FSP	Nicholas Lake	490
	Cameron Dawson	30		Lori Gill	6		Conner Herrick	18		Michael Mace*	12	HS	Don Herrick	454
	Pieter Miller	21	HSL	Nancy Smith*	*84	GST	Ben LeDocq	24	SMF	Michael Mace*	36			
	Luke Broberg*	14	AST	Roger Hill	12	CAM-S	Dylan Reed	12	Wild	Mike Herrick	*48			
	John Phillippe	9	BST	Andlee Phengphachanh	24	CAM-C	Brent Holm*	*71		Michael Mace*	*48			
	Everett Hopkins	7	CST	Tracy Presnell*	*46		Luke Broberg*	27		Luke Broberg*	*41			

"Racing is a drug. I'm addicted to it." —Harry Schell

Events

Elsewhere — 2026

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

Aug 29 Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
 Aug 30 Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
Sep 4-6 SCCA ProSolo Finale @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
Sep 7-11 SCCA Solo Nationals @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 Sep 26 Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
 NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
 §. Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
 Sep 27 Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
 NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
 Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
 Oct 3 ‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 Oct 4 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 Oklahoma @ Remington Park
 Oct 24 Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
 ‡ Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
 Oct 25 Kansas City @ MetroCC Driving Center, Independence MO
 Nebraska @ Lincoln Airpark, Lincoln, NE
 Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS
 Oct 31 NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
 Nov 1 * NeOkla @ Davis Field, Muskogee OK
 Nov 7 Oklahoma @ Remington Park
 Nov 8 Oklahoma @ Remington Park
 Wichita @ Road Yoder, Yoder KS (Endurocross)

RALLYCROSS

Sep 6 NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
 Sep 12-13 Nebraska @ Green Valley Ranch, Kearney, NE
 Sep 13 Kansas @ McCain's Off-Road Park, Carbondale, KS
 Sep 20 Kansas City @ Thunder Valley Sand Drags, Grain Valley, MO
 Oct 4 Kansas City @ Holsworth Farm, Garnett, KS
 NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
 Oct 11 * Nebraska @ Raging Beaver Racecourse, Beaver Crossing, NE
Oct 16-18 RallyCross Nationals @ Camp Verde, AZ
 Nov 7 Kansas @ McCain's Off-Road Park, Carbondale, KS
 Nov 8 NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK
 Nov 15 Kansas City @ I-35 Speedway, Winston, MO
 Nov 22 Kansas @ McCain's Off-Road Park, Carbondale, KS
 Dec 6 NeOkla @ Billy Bob's Farm, Billings OK (Tent.)
 Dec 12 Kansas @ McCain's Off-Road Park, Carbondale, KS

NON SEQUITUR WILEY



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Johnathan Blanton, Victoria, TX, is a region-of-record member in South Texas Border Region but joined Salina Region at the same time in July.

Perhaps a college student? Hope to see him at a future event.

ANNIVERSARIES

••40 Years••

Steve Snyder

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

Sep 28-Oct 4 . The Runoffs @ Road America, Elkhart Lake WI

MIDIV TIME TRIALS SERIES

Sep 19 @ I-29 Speedway, Pacific Junction, IA
 Oct 4 @ Hedge Hollow Raceway, Adrian, MO
Oct 24-25 ... Time Attack Nationals @ Eagles Canyon Raceway, TX

TRACK NIGHT IN AMERICA

Sep 16 @ High Plains Raceway, Deer Trail, CO
 Oct 1 @ Hallett MRC, Hallett, OK



Cone Marks!

Autocross isn't supposed to cause damage, but those pesky cones can leave evidence of the hits

By Rob Krider

With the 2025 Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Championships in the history books (which, in my humble opinion, was one of the best I've attended), all that's left to do is get those pesky cone marks off of the finish of our cars.

But how?

While I was at the Solo Nats, I tried five different methods for making cars look like their drivers (or co-drivers) didn't hit any cones at all during that event. Yes, the permanent record we call the "results" will always show quite a few cones took abuse, but that doesn't mean the cars need to maintain that blemish.

Here's what I found worked.

1. Eraser

Yes, a simple eraser works really well for removing cone marks from your car. I got this tip from San Francisco Region, Fresno Chapter, autocrosser Brad Dawson (who drives a Subaru, and thus hits lots of cones). Hi-polymer soft erasers, like the ones used by artists, work very well to simply erase the transfer of material left by the orange cone after you smack it at 40 mph. I tried it and it does the trick.



2. Malco Spray Citra Cleaner

Malco is one of SCCA's partners – but it's a partner with a product that claims to remove cone marks. It had to be tried!

Spray the Malco Spray Citra Cleaner foam onto the car's paint, let it sit for a minute, then rub off the

cone marks. Turns out, it works great – and it smells nice, too! Because of SCCA's connection with Malco, you'd be right to be cautious about any endorsement given on scca.com, but know that it worked a treat!

Based on how well it eliminated cone marks, you can bet this cleaner will be put to the test again on other motorsport-related schmutz. Want a discount on Malco products? SCCA and Malco will hook you up.



3. Goof Off

I always have a can of Goof Off in the race trailer because this stuff removes just about everything. It works really well for leftover glue from stickers, and I've also found it removes cone material as well.

The only drawback to Goof Off is it doesn't always mix well with certain plastics, as in it may dull the finish and leave behind evidence that you sprayed a chemical on the surface, which isn't great.

So while this works, be careful with your application.



4. Mothers R3

I've had Mothers R3 in my race trailer for years when I discovered how effective it was for removing race rubber off the front of my road racing car (something a lot of other cleaning products didn't seem to be able to do). The little black streaks from running into flying rubber tossed off my competitors race car tires disappeared with a little use of Mothers R3.

I tried the product with autocross cone marks and found it works quite well for that, too.

The trick with the Mothers R3 is to let the spray sit on a car for a bit to soak into the material before you start wiping. Some people prefer microfiber towels for wiping the surface clean – I just use an old cotton t-shirt.

5. Don't hit the cones!

The final – and easiest – recommendation to eliminate cone marks from the finish of your favorite car is **DON'T HIT THE CONES IN THE FIRST PLACE!**

Remember, cones are worth two seconds in an autocross, so they aren't worth it! If you can win an event while hitting cones, just imagine how much MORE you'd win by hitting no cones.

(About the author: Rob Krider is a national champion racer, the author of the novel Cadet Blues, and is the host of the Stories and Cocktails podcast.)

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