

Lone Star *Draft*



News for Racing Enthusiasts in Central Texas

November 2002

Fran-Am Partnership sues SCCA for not certifying cars

DENVER -- A race-car importer filed suit in federal court Monday alleging the Sports Car Club of America and a subsidiary improperly blocked a French-built Formula race car from competing in SCCA-sanctioned races.

Fran-Am Partnership, of Aspen, Colo., accused the SCCA of refusing to certify the cars, built by Renault Sport, Michelin and Tatuus, to compete in its events.

The suit accuses SCCA of trying to hurt Fran-Am and to give SCCA's for-profit subsidiary, SCCA Enterprises, time to bring a competing car to market.

The suit also says SCCA tried to convince Renault Sport to cancel its contract with Fran-Am and instead work with SCCA and SCCA Enterprises.

The suit, which says SCCA and SCCA Enterprises violated the Sherman Antitrust Act, seeks unspecified damages.

Phone messages left with SCCA after hours Monday were not returned.

The not-for-profit SCCA, with offices in suburban Denver, has more than 2,000 amateur and professional motor sports events each year.

Fran-Am said the French-built, open-wheel cars are the Fran-Am 1600, an entry-level Formula car that sells for about \$29,500, and the Fran-Am 2000, a larger and more powerful version. It said the 2000 costs more but did not list a price.

Associated Press

President Steve Johnson Signs Extension

CENTENNIAL, Colo. - The Sports Car Club of America, Inc. (SCCA) has announced a five-year contract extension of President and CEO Steve Johnson, meaning the 65,000-member motorsports organization will remain under his leadership through June 2008.

"Our members are happier with the Club than ever, and that is the direct result of Steve's efforts," said JoAnne Jensen, Chairman of the SCCA Board of Directors. "Our membership numbers are up, our participation is up and our relationships with outside organizations are built on mutual trust and respect. The financial health of the SCCA and our subsidiaries is improving, our staff is knowledgeable and reliable and the headquarters move is on time and under budget."

"Steve is leading us through a most dynamic period in the history of our Club. It was our view that we needed to recognize these successes to ensure the stability of our leadership and to guarantee that we continue on this course by extending his contract for a period of five years."

Johnson joined the Sports Car Club of America staff in June 2000 after serving as Vice President of Sales for the National Hot Rod Association. Under Johnson's direction and leadership, the SCCA's membership has grown more than 18 percent to over 65,000 members.

Indoor Karting Facility Planned In Round Rock

Brothers Charlie and O'Shea Gifford plan to bring European-style indoor karting to Central Texas with two indoor racetracks. The tracks will be used to race high-performance miniature racers capable of speeds as high as 50 miles per hour, although speeds on the track would be closer to 35 mph.

The sport started about a decade ago in Europe, Charlie Gifford says, and tracks in the United Kingdom and Europe now number about 1,000. The United States has about 70 tracks today.

"Clearly, we are at the bottom of the growth curve here in the U.S., and we're happy to be at the bottom," Gifford says. "We are not creating the wheel; we're duplicating what has proven to work in other parts of the country. This is a proven formula, just new to Austin."

The 78,000 square foot facility, formerly a Walmart store, is located at 2400 South I-35 in Round Rock. That's on the west side of the freeway, and fronts on the access road, next to the Lowe's Home Improvement store.

In addition to the tracks and the viewing area, there will be four meeting rooms with the largest capable of accomodating forty or more individuals. For progress reports, check their website: www.rpmir.com.

Looking For Sound Control Techs

Wayne Hill has requested that the Lone Star Region establish a regional sound control position. The Southwest Division has only 5 knowledgeable folks for this area and a few more are needed.

This job will be in a "hot area" (i.e., around moving race cars) and training will be on the job. Wayne will be at Texas World Speedway for the Houston Region's November Enduro/Regional races, the weekend before Thanksgiving.

If you would like to see your racing up close and personal, while earning an SCCA technical credential, please contact Wayne at rangepics@houston.r.com or 713-772-6710.

Come on and join the fun!

Christmas Party

Once again, it's time to celebrate Christmas with your fellow racers and Lone Star Region members. This year's party will be on December 14th, from 6:30 p.m. until whenever, and once again will take place at:

**St. Laurent Residence
4501 Tortuga Cove
Austin, Texas 78731**

Lone Star Region will be providing food and beverages, so don't miss out.

Annual Election

The Annual Election and General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, from 7:30–9:30 p.m. at Scholz Garden, 1607 San Jacinto in Austin. Come enjoy a free dinner and elect your representatives. Hear about the state of the region and next year's schedule of events.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can still send your ballots by mail before November 11th to:

**SCCA
4709 Knollwood Circle
Round Rock, TX 78681**

Annual Tech Inspection

The annual tech will be held on December 14 at the location of Lone Star Region member Bill Johnson's business, Athena Manufacturing, 4807 Commercial Park Drive in Austin.

Bring your ready-to-race cars out to Athena between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and save yourself the grief of waiting in a long line at the first event of 2003. Lone Star Region member Kerry McEntire will be handling the tech inspection. Thank you Kerry.

Speaking of that first race... check out the 2003 schedule in this newsletter or on our website:

www.lonestarscca.com

2003 SOWDIV, SCCA Schedule

Jan. 4	Lone Star	SOWDIV Meeting	Austin
Jan. 11-12	Lone Star	Double Regional	TWS 2.9
Feb. 14-15-16	Houston	Double National	TWS 2.9
Mar. 8-9	Texas	School / Regional	TWS 1.8
Apr. 12-13	S TX Border	Regional / National	Cabaniss
May 2-3-4	Texas	Regional / National / RR	TMS
May 24-25	Lone Star	Regional / National / RR	TWS 1.8cw
June 7-8		Div. Solo II	TBA
June 21-22	Houston	Regional / National / RR	TWS 1.8
July 12-13		Div. Solo II	TBA
July TBA		SOWDIV Meeting	TBA
Aug. 9-10		Div. Solo II	TBA
Oct. 18-19	Texas	Double Regional	TMS
Nov. 22-23	Houston	Regional / Enduro	TWS 2.9
Dec. 6-7	S TX Border	School / Regional	Cabaniss
Dec.12-13	Texas	Rally	Paris, TX

TWS = Texas World Speedway at College Station

TMS = Texas Motor Speedway at Fort Worth

Cabaniss = airport course at Corpus Christi

Registrars / Information:

Houston	Cheri Ferguson	281-328-5388	acarps@houston.rr.com
Texas	Joyce McKinstry	214-350-3033	lola620@aol.com
Lone Star	Paula Taylor	512-338-4008	paula@paragonprep.com
S TX Border	Rosemary Kay	361-729-1464	bobkay@pyramid3.net

Southwest Division Welcomes New Race Workers

Members who have not been race workers and non-SCCA members

Get details on how to get started at the next race in SOWDIV

email jointhefun@houscca.com for contact information

WEBSITE ADDRESSES

LSR	LONESTARSCCA.ORG
TEX	TEXASSCCA.ORG
HOU	HOUSCCA.COM
SCCA	SCCA.ORG
TWS	TEXASWORLDSPEEDWAY.COM
TMS	TEXASMOTORSPEEDWAY.COM
HALLETT	MAVIER.COM / HALLETT
SPEEDVISION	SPEEDVISION.COM (television schedule)
ATLAS F1	ATLASF1.COM (Formula 1 coverage)

They're Moving

SCCA National will be moving their offices from Denver to Topeka, Kansas. The Denver office will complete operations at the end of the business day on Tuesday, November 12, 2002. The new office will open on Monday, November 18.

LSR Officers and Directors

Regional Executive **Nick St. Laurent**

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W 512-990-2777
M 512-848-3917
Grmatocha@aol.com

Director - **Mike Wooton**

Classified Advertisements

Cars For Rent

Formula Fords, Swift DB-1, Viking and Formula Continental, Swift DB-3. Contact John Hancock at 512-243-0642 or e-mail: hanc78@aol.com

Car For Sale

DSR, LeGrande, modified Kawasaki ZX-10 eng., dry sump oil system, Mikuni flat slide carbs. comes with very aerodynamic can-am type body and also original body. You can race SCCA &/or Vintage. with custom trailer. Extremely fast, many wins in Calif. \$15000. Will email photos. Tim Bass, 512-825-8558, timbass@email.com,

Car For Sale

1987 Toyota Supra Turbo. Will rent for weekend. Great DE car & SCCA ITE car. Fully prepped and ready to run. Richard Ford, 225-921-7522, rftoy@bellsouth.net (Baton Rouge).

Trailer For Sale

20' enclosed 1994 Haulmark. 10x20 awning, built in 5KW Onan generator, Coleman AC and heat, electric wench, electric jack, insulated and finished inside, tire rack, cabinet, work bench, pit pal, Jim 830-864-4934 or flyinga@ktc.com

Ad Rates

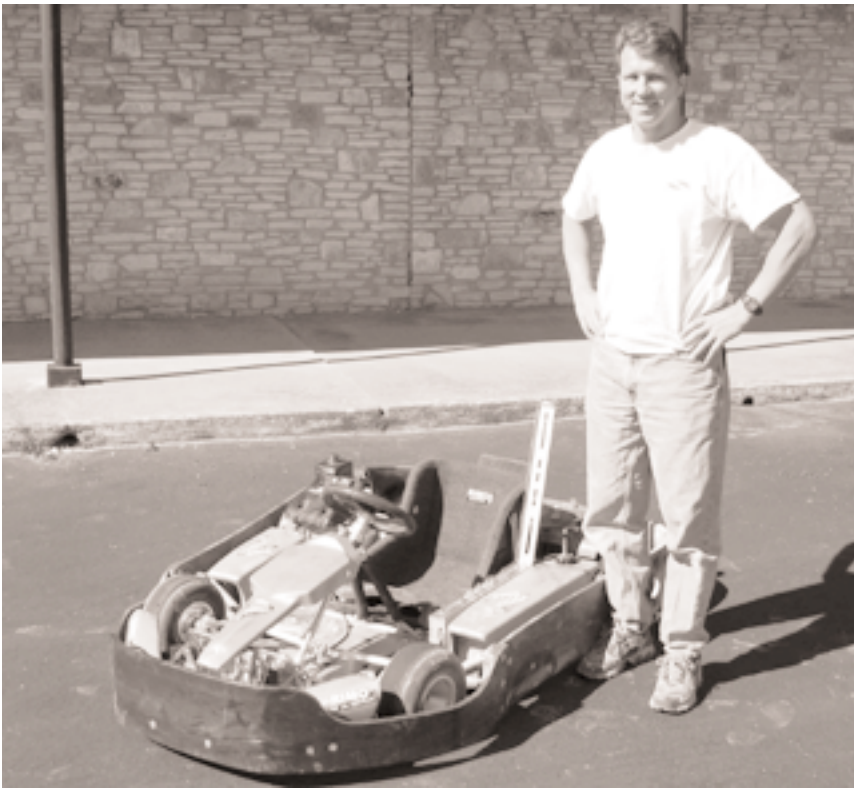
Classified ads are free of charge for individuals. Photos and other scannable material may be included. Individual ads run until editor is notified.

Commercial ad rates are based on a 5 issue run:

Business cards \$30
Quarter page: \$90
Half page: \$150

Here's Where They're Moving To:

Sports Car Club of America (SCCA)
P. O. Box 19400
Topeka, KS 66619-0400
Telephone:
(Local number/Main switchboard): 785-357-7222 (SCCA)
Main Fax number: 785-232-7213
Toll-free: 1-800-770-2055



Charlie Gifford with one of his RPM Indoor Raceway karts.

Editor's Corner

Charlie Gifford told the Draft that RPM Indoor Raceway will be open for business on December 7, 2002. There will be two tracks, one more technical than the other. \$18.00 will buy you eight minutes, good for about sixteen laps. Trust me, you'll feel it after a couple sessions.

The karts are powered by 200cc motors developing just under seven horsepower. In addition to open lapping sessions, competition is planned. The karts have a unique ballast system for weight equalization.

I know where I'll be tuning up for next season. See you there!

President's Corner

The SCCA has experienced unprecedented growth over the last two years. We have had double-digit growth in participation membership and sponsorship; our awareness and motorsports leadership within the industry has taken a huge leap; the morale and "can do", positive attitude from our members continues to reach new highs; and we are improving our service and business acumen to be able to assist our regions, members and partners more effectively and efficiently.

Financially, we are on a quick road to recovery. We have finally created a business model that reports the true health of our oper-

ations by department versus a masked model that could be twisted and presented in a number of ways.

The bottom line...we have in the past been able to utilize our investment income to support and hide our business inadequacies. This luxury has not existed over the last two years because of our losses vs. gains in the investment area. We should have never been in the position to have our stocks and savings investment incomes dictate our business model and operations.

In the future, our business will stand on its own. Investment incomes will be used to reinvest in our programs, services, members and staff, not run the every day operations of the SCCA.

You will be hearing about and seeing the SCCA financials more than you ever have before. We are committed to the success of the Club and its future by committing to the sometimes-overlooked business of the SCCA.

Express Yourself

Submission of articles, stories, commentary, questions is welcomed here at the luxurious offices of the Lone Star Draft. Send to: nichola@austin.rr.com. Keep the formatting to a minimum.

Kerry McEntire Achieves National Scrutineer Level

Lone Star Region's Kerry McEntire has achieved the level of National Scrutineer for the SCCA. He was signed off by the Southwest Division's Division Administrator, Lowell Huston, after serving as the Tech Chief for the Regional last weekend.

Thanks to Kerry for stepping up and congratulations on the new SCCA credentials. And thanks also to Gregg Matocha and Lowell and Jack Marr for their persistence and cooperation in making it happen.



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