

THE BLAT



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION, SCCA

MAY 2004

Rain Or Shine

SUNDAY - MAY 9

Mum's The Word SOLO II

PRICE CUTTER PARK – Ozark, MO
(Exit U.S. Hwy 65 At Rts. CC/J. Go East To
Stoplight At *Lambert's Restaurant* And Turn Right.
Veer Right Onto Outer Road At Antiques Mall.)

Entry Fee – \$20 – SCCA Members
\$25 – Non SCCA Entrants

9:00 To 10:30 AM – Registration & Tech
10:30 AM – Drivers Meeting
11:00 AM – Timed Runs Begin

Please Be On Time!

Points Event No. 3
2004 OMR-SCCA SOLO II Championship

**SCCA Entrants Must Show Current
Membership Cards At Registration**

**ALL Entrants Must Show Valid
Driver's Licenses at Registration**

**Vehicles Must Pass Pre-Event
Safety Inspections**

Helmets Required; Loaners Available

OMR/SCCA SOLO II Manager
Erik Anderson – 417-866-2514
ludikris@mchsi.com

Lots Of Trophies! Lots Of Fun!

Dave Pistole

July 13, 1950 - April 3, 2004

Nineteen year SCCA member **Dave Pistole**, a Pittsburg, KS pharmacist, died Saturday evening, April 3, from injuries suffered in a racing accident earlier in the day at Heartland Park/Topeka. During a *MidAm Championship* race, Dave's GT2 class Porsche 911 collided with a concrete "Jersey" barrier in a newly reconfigured section of the Topeka race track. It is believed the 911 was traveling in excess of 100 mph when it left the pavement and struck the barrier at a 45 degree angle, demolishing the nose of the machine and rupturing the fuel cell. Dave was airlifted to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City where he passed away at 9:30 PM.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday, April 7, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Frontenac, KS. Among the mourners who overflowed the small church were SCCA President Steve Johnson, Ozark Mountain Regional Executive Rick Carr, and more than twenty of Dave's fellow OMR members. A fitting eulogy was offered by Dave's old pal, Bud Weeks, who recalled the enthusiasm Dave displayed for all things automotive. In the 1980s, Dave and Bud autocrossed a pair of Shelby GT350s and were responsible for our Region's highly successful events in the Pittsburg area. At the conclusion of the funeral service, Dave's white-with-blue-stripes GT350 - driven by his oldest son, T.C. Pistole - followed the hearse to the cemetery.

Dave is also survived by his wife of 32 years, Evelyn, another son,
Continued On Page 3

OMR/SCCA's Next Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY – MAY 4 – 7:00 PM

Classic Sports Bar & Restaurant

**Clarion Hotel – 3333 S. Glenstone
SPRINGFIELD**

SCCA National Office

1-800-770-2055

www.scca.com

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The BLAT

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Submissions to **The BLAT** must be in the Region's P.O, Box by the 1st of the month – or delivered to the Editor at a monthly meeting – to be included in the following month's issue.

Editor

Ted Wells – (417) 881-1079

932 E. University, Springfield, MO 65807

OMR/SCCA MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month. Meeting locations are always noted on the first page of **The BLAT**. Guests are welcome.

Board of Directors Meetings are scheduled on Thursday of the second full week of the month. Meeting locations are always noted on the last page of **The BLAT**.

MIDWEST DIVISION OFFICIALS

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Solo II Steward – **Dick Berger - (913) 721-1428**

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Road Rally Steward – **Bruce Bettinger – (316) 788-3942**

www.midiv.org

MORE Dave Pistole From Page 1

Sean, and a daughter, Ann, his parents, Carl and Velma Pistole of Pittsburg, his wife's parents (and OMR members) Charles and Lorraine Miller of Pittsburg, three brothers, one sister, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Dave was a 1973 graduate of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. After first working for *Wal-Mart* in Pittsburg, he later purchased *Pittsburg Pharmacy* which eventually became *The Medicine Shoppe*. Dave was heavily involved in civic and church organizations as well as being a member of SCCA, the Shelby American Automobile Club, and the Porsche Club of America.

"The entire family at SCCA wants to extend its heartfelt condolences to Dave's wife, Evelyn, and everyone else in his family," said Steve Johnson, SCCA President and CEO. "We want them to know that he will always be remembered as part of SCCA." Reportedly, Johnson was traveling in the Kansas City area when he learned of Dave's accident and immediately went to the hospital to meet with the Pistole family.

Dave joined Ozark Mountain Region/SCCA in February, 1985, and soon was a regular at OMR autocrosses in Springfield, Joplin, and Pittsburg. When his immaculate Shelby Mustang became too valuable to drive regularly, Dave turned to road racing in SCCA's popular spec racer class - first called *Sports Renault* and later *Spec Racer/Ford*. His crew members were his son, T.C., and his in-laws, Charles and Lorraine. For his 2004 campaign, Dave acquired the blue, GT2 Porsche 911 from Rick Carr and was excited about his prospects in the fast machine.

Members of *The Automotive Archeologists* team report Dave was in good spirits and looking forward to the race on Saturday, April 3. Because the course had been reconfigured during the winter, new lap records could be established in all classes, and Dave was excited by the opportunity.

Dave truly represented the values and ideals advocated by the Sports Car Club of America. Even in the knowledge that he thoroughly enjoyed his racing hobby, his untimely death saddens and shocks us. The Officers and Members of Ozark Mountain Region extend their deepest sympathies to Evelyn, T.C., Lorraine, Charles, and the whole Pistole family.

A Note From T.C. Pistole

To the Officers and Members of OMR/SCCA:

"Thanks to all of you for the basket of flowers sent to my Dad's funeral. He enjoyed all the times he spent with OMR's members. It still hurts to know he won't be able to spend time doing what he loved, but at least his final moments were spent that way!"

Autocross Notes

OMR's Solo II program has experienced substantial growth in the past two years. Our March autocross in 2002 drew 63 entries. In March, 2003 we had 52. Our "Luck of the Irish" Solo II on March 14th - *Results* elsewhere in this issue - saw 75 drivers post times. With growth have come some problems. During this time frame, the OMR Board of Directors was well aware the Solo program was growing and took several steps to deal with the increasing number of autocross entries.

One of those steps was to acquire - at considerable expense - a generator, laptop computer, printer, and autocross timing and scoring software. In a nutshell....the generator should provide reliable power, the laptop should provide portability and ease of operation, the printer should provide for the quick production of *Results* sheets, and the software should provide for online registration and direct-timer-to-computer posting of times. Those of you who have participated in our March and April autocrosses know that all this equipment isn't yet working in sync. Keep this in mind when reading the following.

Timing System Training Session At OMR's next monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 4, **Erik Anderson** will be conducting a training session for autocrossers interested in working in the T & S trailer during our events. Erik hopes to have all of the T & S hardware at the meeting and offer a "hands on" class. We need a couple of well trained people in the trailer during each run group. Opinions differ on why the T & S system hasn't functioned properly thus far. Erik plans to start working through the problem by making sure the folks in the trailer understand the system.

Run/Work Groups Our events are drawing so many entries that providing for only two run/work groups is creating hardships. Even assuming the run groups are balanced, workers are on course far too long. What has been irritating at the last two events will become sickening when the weather heats up! We don't want to cut down on the number of runs we offer competitors unless we absolutely must. (See next paragraph.) One answer is more run/work groups so each set of workers has to deal with fewer cars. Another answer is dividing the worker pool for each run group and positioning only half the workers on course at a time. Expect more run/work groups on May 9th assuming entries are again in the 75 drivers range. And expect more p.a. system announcements to speed up the worker changeovers.

Five or Four Runs? If the Solo program continues to grow, eventually the number of entries will prevent us from granting each contestant five runs. (Remember when you used to get six runs?) There won't be enough time in the day unless we start running earlier or keep running longer. Both scenarios present hardships for those competitors who drive two hours - or more - to our events. Erik Anderson believes the "magic number" may be 80 entries. If the run groups can get their five runs posted in a more efficient manner

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MORE Autocross Notes From Page 3

then Erik's "magic number" may rise (remember that T & S system training session?) If you want to continue to make five runs at OMR autocrosses, your efforts to move our events along as quickly as possible can have an impact. Events need to start on time; worker changeovers must be executed efficiently; run groups must move smoothly.

Loaner Helmets and Legible Numbers Here's two suggestions to speed up our events. Buy your own helmet, and put some legible numbers and class letters on the side of your car! OMR's loaner helmets are intended for "first timers" who want to give autocrossing a try. If you are a regular (or semi regular) autocrosser, BUY YOUR OWN HELMET! Also be advised that loaner helmets are there for drivers...not friends of drivers who want to ride along. IT'S AN AUTOCROSS; NOT AN AMUSEMENT PARK! In any case, if you must use a loaner helmet, promptly return it to the start line after your run.

Expect a big push to get more of you to use magnetic or reusable vinyl numbers and class letters. The new T & S software provides for the direct relay of information from timer to computer but the car number and class must be entered manually. The folks in the trailer need to know which driver is at the start line. Make it easy for them by putting numbers and class letters on both sides of your car. Relying on starters to relay correct information to the trailer does not contribute to the smooth running of events. Likewise, the cone shaggers must be able to identify cars on course. Scenario: two black Mustangs with shoe polish numbers on the corners of their windshields are on course at the same time; one hits cones, one does not; if you (in #19) had a clean run, would you want the workers to call in "two cones on the black Mustang" or "two cones on #15 (the other guy)?" How are they going to know which is which if you don't have big numbers on your doors?

Trophies This is my problem, not yours. I've got too many of them! The wife says "move 'em out!" Some of the trophies for the March 14th event were distributed at the conclusion of our Easter autocross. The remainder will be handed out at the Drivers Meeting on May 9th. The trophies for our Easter event are another matter. The *Results* from that autocross still aren't in very good shape...lots of gaps when it comes to drivers and vehicles although car numbers and classes have been matched to run times. With your cooperation at the May 9th event, we may be able to hand out the Easter trophies sometime during the day. Listen up at the May 9th Drivers Meeting!

Release And Waiver Forms There are new guidelines this year, and separate "waivers" for persons 18 years-of-age and older as opposed to those under 18. The new guidelines will be discussed at our May 4th General Meeting and explained again at our May 9th autocross. Expect to hear a lot about the "release and waiver forms" via the p.a. system on May 9th.

Road Race Report

By the end of April, the Midwest Division racing season was in full swing with two national events, two *I.T. Tour* races, and six *MidAm Championship* events having been run. OMR racers feature prominently on the points charts, and here's the rundown.

National Races

Curtis Wood, Ozark, MO, heads up the G Production class with his Alfa Romeo Giulietta having racked up 33 points. Chuck Leighton, Springfield, lies Fourth in GP with 9 pts won with his MGB. Chuck also is Sixth currently in E Production with 7 pts, but in that class he races a Yenko Stinger.

Mountain Home, AR "mad man" Chris Brannon holds Second in Touring 2 with 32 pts collected with his Pontiac Firebird. St. Louis Region's Dennis Aubuchon leads the class with 45 pts. OMR's Loren Moore, Springfield, also hopes to make noise in T2 this year, having acquired two new race cars - a Neon SRT/4 and a Cadillac (yes, that's right) - over the winter, but so far Loren has tallied only 7 pts in the Neon, good enough for Third Place.

The late Dave Pistole, Pittsburg, KS, still leads GT2 with 14 pts. Tom Morrison, Aurora, MO, holds down Second with 12 pts won with his Porsche 914-6.

I.T. Tour

I.T. Tour events allow SCCA's "regional only" classes to run on Sundays with MIDIV's National points races. At the moment, only two OMR drivers have scored *Tour* points. Loren Moore leads Improved Touring E with 21 pts having won at Memphis Motorsports Park and finished second at MidAmerica Motorplex with his yellow Corvette. (Yes, that's three cars for those of you keeping score!) Twenty-two drivers have raced in the Spec Miata class so far, and Dick Faxon, Springfield, is tied for Third with 9 pts from a second place finish at Memphis. Dick's in the hunt though because class leaders Bill Pemberton and David Harber only have 12 pts.

Mid-Am Championship

Loren and his Corvette are making a big splash in the *Mid-Am Championship* for Regional racers. With 69 pts already, he's the only driver currently qualified for *Mid-Am's* "Driver of the Year" title. Those 69 pts give Loren a big lead in ITE, but he also leads Super Production with 12 pts!

Mike Eden and Forrest Tindall, both of Springfield, are tied for Second in E Production with 12 pts apiece. Mike and his Alfa Spider won at Heartland Park on Apr. 3, and Forrest won at Hallett, OK on Apr. 18 with his Mazda RX7. Kansas City Region's Steve Schmidt/ Triumph GT6 leads the class with 21 pts.

Chuck Leighton leads GP with 36 pts.....Dick Faxon has racked up 28 pts in Spec Miata and stands Third behind Bill Pemberton (33 pts) and Tom Kraft (32 pts)... and Jack Schulz, Monett, MO, lies 11th in ITS with 5 pts earned at Hallett with his Porsche 911.

2004 OMR-SCCA Solo II Schedule

March 14	July 25
April 11 (Easter)	August 29
May 9	September 11 (Saturday)
June 13	October 24
June 19 (Saturday)	November 7

2004 Divisional Solo II Schedule

May 30/31 - Event #1 - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL
 June 12/13 - Event #2 - Remington Park - Oklahoma City, OK
 July 10/11 - Event #3 - East Crawford Rec Area - Salina, KS
 Aug. 7/8 - Event #4 "MIDIV Solo II Championship" - Topeka, KS

2004 SCCA Midwest Division Calendarwww.midiv.org**MAY**

1/2 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL
 15/16 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Hallett Motor Racing Circuit - Hallett, OK
 29/30 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Memphis Motorsports Park - Millington, TN
 30/31 - SOLOTIME/MIDIV Solo II Series Event #1 - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL

JUNE

5/6 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS
 12/13 - SOLOTIME/MIDIV Solo II Series Event #2 - Remington Park - Oklahoma City, OK
 19/20 - MirrorKhana XXX - East Crawford Recreation Area - Salina, KS

JULY

3/4 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Hallett Motor Racing Circuit - Hallett, OK
 10/11 - SOLOTIME/MIDIV Solo II Series Event #3 - East Crawford Recreation Area - Salina, KS
 17/18 - Racing School/Regional Race/Performance Car Control Clinic - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS
 31/1 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL

AUGUST

7/8 - SOLOTIME/MIDIV Solo II Series Event #4 - "MIDIV Solo II Championship" - Topeka, KS
 21/22 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - MidAmerica Motorplex - Glenwood, IA

SEPTEMBER

4/5 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS
 11/12 - SCCA ProSolo Finale - Forbes Field - Topeka, KS
 14-17 - Tire Rack/SCCA Solo II National Championship - Forbes Field - Topeka, KS
 20-26 - Valvoline/SCCA "Runoffs" - National Road Racing Championship - Mid Ohio Sports Car Course

OCTOBER

2/3 - Racing School/Regional Race/Performance Car Control Clinic - MidAmerica Motorplex
 9/10 - SCCA Pro Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS
 16/17 - Racing School/MidAm Bonus Regional Race - Memphis Motorsports Park - Millington, TN
 30/31 - Double Regional Races - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL

NOVEMBER

6/7 - MIDIV Annual Convention - Tulsa, OK

Calendar Note The Midwest Division's first divisional autocross of the year will be run Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend (May 30/31) at Gateway Int'l Raceway, Madison, IL. Event #1 in the 2004 MIDIV-Solotime Solo II Series - hosted by St. Louis Region - has been named "Gateway to Nationals" and more info can be found on the following websites:

www.midivsolo.orgwww.stlscga.org

Events & Meetings In The Weeks Ahead

MAY 4 - TUESDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Monthly Meeting - *Classic Sports Bar & Restaurant* - Clarion Hotel - 3333 S. Glenstone - Springfield

MAY 9 - SUNDAY - OMR/SCCA *Mum's The Word* Solo II - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO (*Details On Page 1*)

MAY 13 - THURSDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Board Of Directors Meeting - *Schultz & Dooley's Too* - 3512 S. National - Springfield

MAY 15/16 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Hallett Motor Racing Circuit - Hallett, OK (918-774-6392)

MAY 29/30 - Regional/National/I.T.Tour Races - Memphis Motorsports Park - Millington, TN (901-756-6707)

MAY 30/31 - Divisional Solo II *Solotime Series* Event #1 - Gateway Int'l Raceway - Madison, IL (www.midivsolo.org www.stlscga.org)

JUNE 1 - TUESDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Monthly Meeting - *Classic Sports Bar & Restaurant* - Clarion Hotel - 3333 S. Glenstone - Springfield

JUNE 5/6 - Regional/National/I.T. Tour Races - Heartland Park - Topeka, KS (819-795-8524)

JUNE 10 - THURSDAY - 7:00 PM - OMR/SCCA Board Of Directors Meeting - *Schultz & Dooley's Too* - 3512 S. National - Springfield

JUNE 13 - SUNDAY - OMR/SCCA *June Doubleheader I* Solo II - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO

JUNE 19 - SATURDAY - OMR/SCCA *June Doubleheader II* Solo II - Price Cutter Park - Ozark, MO

The **BLAT**
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FIRST CLASS

www.omrscga.org