

# Time to hand over the reins

**W**hat a life! 2006 has been a great year for your Regional Executive. First I hit the lottery for Super Bowl tickets and went to the game. Don't we love those Pittsburgh officials?

Then my oldest son, J.J., arranged for tickets to the World Cup third-place game. I went and had a great time.

Then Rally America sanctioned a rally at the X Games and I went and worked the rally and the motorcycle race. The games are really a fantastic show. While on the road, I also had stops in Amsterdam; Ireland; Wilmington, Del.; Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Chicago and Bloomington, Ill. Ireland was a visit to a friend and her kids, Wilmington a rallyist and guide, Lesley Suddard, who showed me the sites in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Chicago was a company convention and Bloomington a visit to my son, Chris, and his family.

## Rally news

The Wild West Rally was scheduled for Sept. 8-10. Mother Nature did not give us any of our wonderful Washington weather, so the fire danger was too high and the rally postponed.

J.B. Niday from Rally America contacted Steve McQuaid and he agreed to move our date to Dec. 1-3 and become the final rally of the year. The date change was also thanks to Green Diamond Resource for allowing to use their roads on that weekend date. The rally will end with Rally America presenting their year-end awards. Entries should include Travis Pastrana, Patrick Richard and other drivers from the X Games. We need more volunteers to handle the additional crowds expected with the signing of several major sponsors in addition to our longtime supporter, Subaru Northwest. Check out the Web site for some big news and you can volunteer on the Wild West Web site at [www.wildwestrally.org](http://www.wildwestrally.org) and enjoy some of the fun.

The 2006 rally season was a great success with Ray Damitio's Doo Wop Rally starting the season, followed by the Oregon Trail, organized by the Oregon Rally Group (ORG) with an assist from the Pacific Rally Group (PRG). Then we had the revival of the Olympus Rally, thanks to the John Nagle family, chair-

## Regional Perspective

**JOHN FORESPRING,  
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

man Steve McQuaid and the PRG. Then the Rallyworkers' Rally Sprints at Ray and Janice Damitio's farm in Montecano. There were also several successful rallycrosses held.

The 2007 season will have the same events with the Olympus Rally being a qualifier for the X Games.

## The 2006 race season

2006 was a challenge for the race committee. They had to deal with the loss of Memorial Day weekend for the double national event held at Pacific Raceways. The track had signed a contract with another group and the race was moved into June. The racing was still good but the lack of a three-day weekend caused concern.

The other events at Bremerton and Pacific Raceways had some success. In 2007, Race Chairman Tom Masterson and the race committee will face the same difficult challenges. I hope that the people who race will give Tom and the committee the support they need.

## Time Trials 2006

Mark McCloskey has done an excellent job of putting together a very good Time Trails program. The future of the program, under his leadership, is bright. If you have not checked out time trials yet you have missed some fun.

## Solo

How many more good things can be said about the Northwest Region's Solo (no longer Solo II) program? It is one of the best in SCCA. Current Assistant RE for Solo, Jerry Lamb, has done an excellent job of keeping the Region Board informed of the program and drivers' achievements. They have great sites and a great group who guarantee their continued success.

## Other regional business

The region has seen many challenges recently. The number of members decreased greatly when the National Office and the Board of Directors dropped the performance rally program. We

were considered to be the rally region in SCCA and had the best overall program in SCCA, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers. Their loss hurt not only region membership, but the region as a whole.

The loss of revenue and volunteers for other region events was great. The Northwest Region Board took immediate action by starting PRG and most of the key rally folks now belong to PRG.

With the loss of membership revenue the NWR Board also had to cut the cost of the newsletter. They did this by making it bimonthly and electronic.

The region election should be over soon after you read this. There will be a new Regional Executive (RE), Assistant RE, Secretary, Treasurer and two Board Members at Large.

I have served as the RE for six years and was the Assistant RE for four years preceding that. It has been interesting and, with the help of current and past board members, some major issues have been resolved. We have kind of lost the performance rally program, we have seen some programs struggle, others continue to grow and the start of the Time Trials program.

The Northwest Region was voted Region of the Year for seven years. I have announced my retirement as RE and as a full-time rally organizer. I have held to my promise to not quit until I have trained my replacement. As of right now I have trained my Assistant RE, Frank Hamilton, to take over that job. I am working on training my good friend, Steve McQuaid, to take over the rally organizer's job. That one takes a bunch more training and, as good and quick a learner as Steve is, it is going to take more time.

## Final thoughts

I want to thank all of the great people who have helped me in the last six years. Without their support I could not have accomplished any of the tasks that needed to be done. The Region of the Year awards and other successes the region has enjoyed have been the result of the work of a lot of great people who are part of the Northwest Region team. I would like to name them all but, at my age, I know I will forget some very important people. So, thank you everyone!