



## The official news source of SCCA's Northwest Region

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# SCCA's national convention offers trove of information

**S**AN ANTONIO, Texas — This was a great convention. The only shortcoming was that not all folks could attend all of the sessions. We are not complaining. The event took place in at the Crown Plaza Hotel on Feb. 1-3.

As the rookie regional executive, I spent most of my time going to RE-type seminars and meetings. Jim Julow, our new CEO and chairman of the SCCA BoD was there.

**TERMINOLOGY CHANGE:** SCCA is asking us to change the term "workers" to "volunteers" for IRS reasons. "Workers" suggests to the IRS that someone is getting paid. We cannot do that in not-for-profit organizations.

Volunteer incentive was one of the programs that were part of one of the panels — what keeps them and what recruits them.

**STREET SURVIVAL:** A new program has been developed by the BMW Foundation and sponsored by Tire Rack to educate teenaged drivers. Fifty cities already have the program in its first year of existence. SCCA has been selected to get the rest of the word out. This is not about racing. I believe it will work well with First Gear and high schools in general.

**TECH SERVICES** at SCCA put on seminars on rules for racing (all SCCA venues) and car setups. Some new rules were discussed. There were sessions aimed at stewards too.

**OUR CEO:** Julow participated in a town-hall meeting as well as addressing members' issues. Several brought concerns to his attention but a lot of good information came of these meetings.

**LICENSING:** One seminar was devoted to the licensing process for racers (several venues) and it was open to proposed rule changes as well. Tire Rack has published new rule books for Solo based on the latest SCCA mandates.

**BEST PRACTICES:** SCCA members have created a best practices document for handling difficult situations within all regions. It covers subjects like volunteer burnout, hosting events, recruiting new volunteers, event opera-

## Region Report

**FRANK HAMILTON,  
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

tions and more.

**MARKETING:** How do you sell your region and SCCA? These sessions were more than just selling SCCA. It addressed publicizing your events and attracting members to your regions and events. Awareness in the community is very important — Race, Rally, Solo, Time Trials, Sprints and so on. It's not known in lots of places but our race community is the largest in the USA. Most of the 113 regions do a lot more than race. There are civic projects that are conducted by our folks too. We need to do something about our reputation — it's the best!

**SOCIAL ASPECTS:** Valvoline hosted this year's reception. Other sponsors such as Hawk Brakes, BSR Safety Products, C.W. Byer Graphics & Design, Tire Rack, Sunoco, Saferacer, Mazdaspeed, Pace America, Subaru, Honda, Yokohama, HANS, Heartland Park, Imperial Marketing (shirts, bags, hats, etc.), MSD Ignitions, Prize Possessions (trophies in silver and crystal), Safercraft, Cool Shirts and others. These folks all had exhibits and/or banners at the convention. The convention is a great way to meet and network with people from other places. It is still obvious that we at NWR-SCCA are one of the busiest regions out there.

**THE BIG ISLAND:** Hawaii became the newest region this past year. Because of that, they pulled in several awards.

**AWARDS:** Our own John Martinson was a presenter. He was inducted in the SCCA Hall of Fame for his many years of service last year. He was our Division Representative for several years and a past RE. A bunch of awards got passed out.

**INFO:** Should you like more details on the convention, send me an e-mail: rallyguy@comcast.net.