

# SCCA's reasons to celebrate

## *With venues in the black, programs gain vitality*

I went to the National Convention and met the future of club racing. Jesse Prather won the Mark Donahue Award, our own Andrew Caddell won the Fitzpatrick Trophy and Mike Miserendino won the President's Cup. What is refreshing is that at least two of these fine young gentlemen can still qualify for membership in First Gear. The future does look bright.

As you can read elsewhere in Northwest Sports Car News, young Andrew went on to win "the biggest prize in club racing history." Mazda had a post-Runoffs competition and our young man won hands down.

So now Andrew has a new MX-5 Cup car to move up to the Pro series with this year. He will do so with all the best wishes and wishes for good luck from everyone in NORPAC. He will do us proud.

The brightest part of the week was the

### **Directly Duck**

**H. "DUCK" ALLEN**

BMW Foundation-United Spinal Association "Street Smarts" teen driving program in which our club is partnering. The pilot plan for this year is to present this program in six regions, with a rollout to the entire club in 2008. The interest in the program was so great that the room was packed, with overflow out into the hall. This is a program for regions of all sizes with little or no financial risk. This is the bridge program that regions need to do community outreach and satisfy the educational requirements of our charters. And if teens become "taken" with solo, rallycross or club racing along the way...

A huge tip-of-the-helmet goes out to Tire Rack for back-

ing this program. Far and away, Tire Rack is an excellent partner to our club. Speaking of great partners, Pace Trailers will be giving away a trailer at the Solo Nationals and the Runoffs this year.

Cheryl Babbe was the hit of the rally-solo lunch again, playing along with master of ceremonies Peter Hylton with assistance from K.P. Jones of the BOD. Babbe also accepted the Regional Rally Achievement Award for Arctic Alaska.

For once, all three units of SCCA finished the year in the black. Although one unit did so with a loan from SCCA Inc., so far little more than half of that loan has been used and we are promised that is it. This year World Challenge raced before a million spectators and

TV viewership passed five million total. The renewal of the TV contract this year is a

high priority.

Bob Wildberger, the new president of ProRacing, attended the club racing luncheon and won over the crowd with his explanations of past losses and his plans for the future. He also won over the "clubbies" when he awarded Caddell a free season (no entry fees) in the MX-5 Cup series.

The next day, when Pro had a breakout in a smaller room, Wildberger made his PowerPoint presentation and asked for questions. There were none so the meeting finished in half the allotted time.

The new Volkswagen program came about from Wildberger's work. From start to signing it was less than 120 days. The VW spec series for Pro looks like a winner already.

The Run-Offs survey was a huge success with 65 per-



**Howard "Duck" Allen (center) honors Cheryl Babbe (left) for the Regional Rally Achievement Award and Kevin Poirier for the Regional Rallycross Achievement Award.**