

Northwest Region's annual awards banquet set Feb. 16

Make reservations for Best Western Tacoma Dome event

BY SHERRI MASTERSON
Contributing editor

Come celebrate the Northwest Region's 54th year at the Best Western Tacoma Dome Hotel on Feb. 16. It will be a wonderful night of bench racing and awarding our wonderful members who give so much to the club. The four regional awards each have a special story behind them. We will also have available the list of award winners from Time Trials, Race, Solo and Rally venues.

A no-host bar opens at 6 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$40 with payment at the door (cash, credit card or check). Reservations are required because we need to supply the hotel with an accurate attendance count prior to our event. Reservations are needed and can be made from our Web site, www.nwr-scca.org/regional/banquetform.htm or by contacting Sherri Masterson at kc7wec@yahoo.com or 360-479-6082.

The hotel is located at 2611 East E St., Tacoma. We have a small room block reserved for those wanting to stay the night Saturday. Price is \$109 plus tax. Contact the hotel at 253-272-7737 and use the group code NWRSCCA.

Awards presented are as follows

Frank and Joan Manley Enthusi-

ast Award. Last year this was awarded to Gretchen Everett. This award is given to a Northwest Region member who exhibits qualities of enthusiasm and willingness to be involved in region activities. Sometimes it is difficult to find just one person with such "unbridled enthusiasm in a region like ours that has three very active venues running at a full gallop. Gretchen helped share some of her "galloping ways" with the division at last year's convention. She has also held many positions in the regions Solo program.

Mary Pang "Unsung Hero" Award. Kevin Needham was winner the last year. As in all volunteer organizations, there are many positions and many tasks that are accomplished by many visible people in the Northwest Region. The Unsung Hero Award gives us a chance to recognize someone who accomplishes many tasks without that high visibility. The winner of this award generally is another one of those obsessive-compulsive types who quietly volunteers, works their butt off and is mostly seen on the sidelines. Kevin not only is our Emergency Chief for race but he also works rallies and rallycrosses. Kevin stays very active in what is going on around him always keeping our safety in mind in whatever events we are partaking.

Stan Burnett Inspirational Award. Last year, it was awarded to Mark McCloskey. This trophy was established by the family of Stan Burnett, who was killed at Seattle International Raceway while testing his racecar in

1971. It is to be awarded to an individual whose lifestyle exhibits the determination, energy, loyalty, sensitivity and love that Stan showed in his life. Mark has taken the transformed Solo 1 program to the new, restructured Time Trials program. He also crewed on the 1964 Burnett Can Am, the only Burnett racecar left in existence, which is owned by Merrill Faulk.

Joe Henderson Memorial Award. L.C. "Bud" Bohrer was the last recipient in 2005 of the award. This trophy was given by the family of Joe Henderson, charter member of the region and active in SCCA for over 30 years until his death in 1982. It is to be given to a member of the region for long and meritorious service to SCCA national, divisional and regional organizations in a leadership role. This award winner is selected by the past recipients and is not awarded every year. Bud was instrumental, as was John Martinsen, in starting our Solo 2 program back in 1972-73. Our Solo program has gained much respect and many kudos from the national office of SCCA for its growth and support of the administration of events as well as the impressive level of competition here. Bud is still an active member in our Solo program.

Driving directions to the Best Western Tacoma Dome Hotel

From the north or south: Take I-5 to Exit 133, then exit to E. 26th Street and turn right on East E Street.

Tiny transponders deliver scads of data

BY FRANK MANLEY
Race chairman emeritus

It always amazes me how few people in racing know about this capability.

Last year the ALMS put on a 3-hour enduro at Road Atlanta. The press re-

quired they know what driver was in each car at all times. With three drivers per car and 3 hours this would have been a manual nightmare. However Track Timing (AMB subsidiary and software producer for same) had just delivered a TranX260 Driver ID kit. This

involved three tiny transponders attached to the helmet, which identified each driver and gave all his biographical information.

Once these signals hit the decoder each lap, and thence to a race computer, the press had all the data they wanted.