

Region's success derives from community service

We are a community-service entity! Sports Car Club of America, Northwest Region and Pacific Rally Group are all community-service organizations. That's part of maintaining our "not-for-profit" status with the Internal Revenue Service. We do that well. We must continue along these lines for the good of our respective communities and to keep in good standing with IRS.

Programs that we have promoted and supported over the years that come to mind include the "trick rallies" put on by Corvette de Olympia (a club), several cancer fundraising drives, First Gear (formerly "Speed Freaks"), Toys for Tots, Adopt-a-Highway (south of Olympia) and unrelated youth sports programs. The newest community event, launched this year, is Street Survival. Survival, developed by the BMW Foundation, is partly funded by Tire Rack and promoted by SCCA. NWR inaugurated it at Bremerton Motor Sports Park (BMP) this winter.

Trick rallies: Yes, they are another great bunch of people (mostly not SCCA) but we help them set up their course and events. The funds raised by this group provide community college automotive scholarships. Past RE John Forespring has spent many years as an SCCA member laying out courses for them and spearheading committees to help them reach their objectives. Their events (we call them trick rallies) are a combination of a scavenger hunts, a TSD and a poker run ... I guess that is the way to describe their practice. Lots of folks show up and it helped a bunch

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**FRANK HAMILTON,
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

of students get a better education.

Toys for Tots: The program was initiated by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Last year NWR-SCCA was a major contributor to their program. Marine reservists collected toys for needy families at Christmas. This was last year's new venture in community involvement.

Street Survival: Drivers' education is being downsized in more and more schools as budget crunches gobble funding. So where do young drivers get practical (real) training in private vehicle operation? Remember, the 16- to 18-year-olds are one of the two highest crash groups in the nation. We as a community have to step up to the plate — and we have started to do so. Survival is not about racing at all. See Sherri Masterson's article.

Youth athletics: We have provided time and money to several sports programs on a limited basis in the past. They were targeted in that family members were SCCA and seemed to be encouraging their kids to follow their passion in SCCA. These efforts got our name out there and encouraged membership in some of our youth programs at NWR. Our support did help recruit a few members and helpers and qualified as charity. At that moment, their respective activities were aided.

I don't think cancer is going away

anytime soon. More time and money is needed to continue researching a cure for this disease. Anything we can do is a plus.

Adopt-a-Highway: See the accompanying article on Page 6 on this subject.

Apart from charity, it's important to recall that when we do an event in a given area, we racers and crews, our spectators, our sponsors and volunteers put a lot of money into the local economy. Motels, restaurants, stores, etc., all benefit from our competitions. In some cases that amounts to millions of dollars per year.

What else can we do in your local area within our means to promote community service? What's next year's new program? How can we keep existing programs alive and well? You the members are the answer.

*Regional Executive Frank Hamilton:
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New meeting locales for Race, Solo, Board

Race, Solo and the Board of Directors have all had to find new restaurants to hold their monthly meetings in 2008.

Solo and Race committees are now meeting at Goldies, 3927 Airport Way S., Seattle; 206-622-1119.

The Board of Directors is now meeting at The Poodle Dog Restaurant, 1522 54th Ave E. Fife; 253-922-6161.



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