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Welcome to the new 2006 version of DS.

As you'll see, there are a few changes in this current issue of DownShift. One thing you'll notice, for those of you who print out a copy to post on a bulletin board or attach via magnet to the side of your refrigerator, is that this issue attempts to be a little more "printer friendly", avoiding the heavy black borders that may drain your ink supply. We hope this version will be as well received as past issues. Since Erik Mohn is involved in a car project as well as continuing his education, he will be unable to continue to edit this publication. Many thanks go to Erik for the great job he has done during the past year and we hope he will occasionally find time to contribute in the future. We'd certainly like to document his Lotus 7 clone project.

2006 Solo II Helmet Standards.

If you wondered if your old helmet is legal for Solo II in 2006, the SCCA has issued the following bulletin:

"After 01/01/2006 the only helmet certifications that will be acceptable for use at SCCA Solo II Events will be:

SA95, M95, K98, SA2000, M2000, SA/K2005, or M2005 from the Snell Memorial Foundation and the SFI numbers 31.1A, 31.2A, 41.1A and 41.2A from the SFI Foundation."

As an additional reminder, please check your helmet(s) for any structural damage such as cracks or deterioration of impact-absorbing materials under the inner lining. Also, when purchasing a new helmet, size and fit is very important for the best effectiveness.

Ky Region SCCA 2005 Awards Banquet at Kingfish on River Road at Zorn Avenue on Saturday, January 14, 2006. It will be in the 2nd floor banquet room with the cash bar opening at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. Awards will follow.

KyR and BlueGrass Motorsports renew partnership for 2006.

Kentucky Region is pleased to announce that BlueGrass Motorsports has verbally agreed to renew its sponsorship of the KyR Solo II Challenge for 2006. In a meeting with 2005 RE Jamey McDaniel & 2006 RE Phil Wells, BlueGrass Motorsport Mazda's Hicham Roida announced that they would renew their partnership in KyR's Solo II program for the upcoming season.



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DownShift Editor--Phil Wells

Reminder for SCCA Renewals.

Just a reminder that checking the "crew license" box on your SCCA membership provides additional benefits at no extra cost. If you have a crew license and are listed on a road racer's crew list, you not only get into the event free but the SCCA also provides insurance for you while you're at the track. Without the license, you may still serve on someone's pit crew but there is usually a nominal fee to enter the track and SCCA does not provide the insurance. Besides the above, this gives you the second best "seat in the house" to watch the races and support your fellow KyR road race members.

Saturday March 11 will be the annual tech day at the parking lot of Unique Automotive & Winning Formula at Bardstown Road. Tech will be from 10 AM to 1 PM. Help is also requested during that same time period for trailer clean-out.

The SCCA National Convention is Feb.2-4 in Kansas City at the Westin Crown Center.

The complete 2006 events schedule is currently in the works. As soon as it is finalized, it will be published on the website and in DownShift. We also hope to host schools for Timing and Scoring and Solo Safety Stewards licenses.

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& RACE CAR PREP

Behind the Scenes

Here are just a few of the people whose work makes the Kentucky Region's events flow smoothly:



Al Murrell is a past RE and the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees. In 2005, Al delivered the club trailer and equipment to all of the event sites and also took it back to its storage location when the event was over. Often he had to make an extra trip just to pick up his own competition ride for the day, usually his yellow BP Corvette.



While he hasn't competed in an autocross in years, Ken Daugherty contributes greatly to the region by being present at every event, organizing registration and collecting entry fees. A great big "Thank You" is in order for his work so that the rest of us can play. Ken is also Kentucky Region's membership chairman.



While you may not see much of her until her driving stint, Cindy Duncan is busy as soon as registration opens, logging in the info of the entrants and setting up the computers and timing equipment. She and her husband, James, are the ones to thank for getting the results posted so quickly as well.



Just like "Old Reliable", you can count on Ira DeVaughn to be ready for you and your car when tech inspection opens up. Ira has also become the man to beat in G Stock with his Toyota.



A top contender in whichever class he chooses to run, John Hicks is willing to share his knowledge and expertise during the instructional course walk provided just prior to the daily driver's meeting. Although

previously called the "Novice Course Walk", it's not just for novices but it's for anyone who wants to improve his/her performance in solo II.



Keith Norris is a past Activities Director and is one of the first people on the scene at each event. He sets up the PA system (as well as maintaining it), the timing scoreboard and sets up the timing system as soon as the course is delineated. He is one of the few people who knows where everything goes in the trailer and how to get it all in there!



As one of the first persons on site on autocross days, Geoff Hale comes early to help set up and then stays late to help put things away. Whether it's co-designing the course as he did on one of our points events in 2005 or dropping off needed cones to help another course designer, Geoff is another of those unsung workers that contributes to the success of our local events.

Next issue we hope to highlight others who contribute so greatly to our region's success. Stay tuned.

*Chris Ludwig cops
Cen-Div East points
crown in ITS*



Chris Ludwig grids at IRP

KyR's Chris Ludwig's 90 points bested his nearest rival by 34 points to win the ITS title going away in Cen-Div East in 2005. Along the way Chris had 6 wins, 2 seconds, and 2 fourth-place finishes. Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course must be his favorite place to run as all 6 wins came at that venue. Ludwig also had a win at Gateway International Raceway near St. Louis in a Midwest Division foray.

Wanted!!!!!!!!!!

Editor, Co-Editor, Assistant Editor, Technical Editor, Production Editor, Marketing Director, Feature Writers, Photographers, and Correspondents. If you aspire to be the new "Brock Yates" or just would be willing to help with DownShift, please contact Phil Wells at pswells@psci.net.

Notice.....

There will be a short Board of Trustees meeting at 6 PM prior to the Awards Banquet at the Kingfish Restaurant.

The February general membership meeting will be moved to Thursday Feb. 9 at 7 PM in the patio room at Max & Erma's on Hurstbourne Parkway between Taylorsville Road and Six Mile Lane. There will be a door prize given but you must be present to win. Join us for dinner, drinks, a short meeting and lots of bench racing. Please RSVP to Andrew Scott by Feb. 8 so that we might give Max & Erma's the number that will be dining. Thank you.

RE "Lease"

As the new officers take over the reins for 2006, a look at the "Behind the Scenes" article is a reminder that Kentucky Region's success lies in its many members making contributions in so many ways. As preparations are being made for the upcoming season, step up & volunteer to chair an event, contribute to DownShift, crew for one of our many road racers, and, in general, be an active member in *your* club. The passion for automobiles is what brings us all together, whether it's a social event or a competitive one. Let's look forward to the best of everything in 2006!

-----Phil Wells

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