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# DOWNSHIFT



The KYSCCA Monthly Newsletter  
November 2018

## Welcome to the New Downshift! 2018 Season

Dave Melton • [KYSCCA@gmail.com](mailto:KYSCCA@gmail.com)  
*Regional Executive*

### Oct-over!

**That's a wrap!** Kentucky Region SCCA's competition events are done for 2018. We hosted eight solo points events, a Tire Rack Street Survival for teens school, what I believe is the best regional autocross school going, our first ever "Beat the heat" event, a Starting Line school, one daytime and two night time "test n tunes" and our first ever regional Time Trials event. For a relatively short season it was a busy one; For our leadership the work has just begun. While we may have completed all our driving events we still have membership and board meetings and these meetings are **open to all members**. We are, after all, a club. Our parent organization is a sanctioning body that organizes and sanctions races at all levels and disciplines of motorsport. We are a club.. a club of people. We share similar geographic location and an interest in automobiles and or motorsport; We work together and play together and the off season is a great time to socialize and bench race, share plans for next season, seek out a co-driver or advice. If you haven't made it to a membership or board meeting I encourage you to take the time to attend one in the off season.

**The off season** for our leadership still means a full load of work. We are planning our year end banquet and selecting and ordering trophies as well as making convention plans. We've started working on next season's solo events schedule and we are hoping to host another Time Trial even on track as well. We are reaching out to our current (as well as past) and potential sites to secure dates for our 2019 solo season. This unfortunately is a lengthy process. We hope to have dates contracted by the time of our banquet which we hope to announce very soon.

**Our Leadership** for 2019 is the same group of volunteers but with some shifting of focus. I'm trying to shed some of the solo responsibilities while focusing on developing our Time Trials Program. Jacob and Zac have done an excellent job of building our novice program. Stephen has done an excellent job with workers. Shawn does the majority of our courses. Josh and Rich continue to refine our registration and timing. If you feel you have something to offer or would like to learn how some aspect works a great first step is coming to the meetings.

If you have a question, problem or concern you can shoot me an email at the above address, you can now reach me on Facebook ([RE KYSCCA](#)) or give me a call; most of you already have my phone number, if you don't, ask around.

I'm happy to address any topic as it relates to the club with any member.

## WINTER SIM RACING LEAGUE

The final events of the year are coming to a close and another racing season has come to an end. Drivers have begun packing their cars away for the winter and plotting projects to tide them over until the next season starts. If you're like me you miss the excitement of driving and wish you could get some more seat time. What if I told you there was a way? There is: sim racing. The best drivers in the world hone their skills in state of the art simulators, but some pretty good ones do it here with run of the mill equipment (all the way down to the lowly Playstation). That's where we come in! Some of the same characters you've become accustomed to racing with at your local autocross and track events have come together to form the **Kentuckiana Sim Racing League**. Now, in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, each winter the sim league holds what has become known as the 'KYSCCA Winter League', a highly competitive series of races throughout the off season that keep the racing action going long after the cars are put away. Not only is this a chance to hone some of the same skills and reflexes you need compete in your real life hardware, but an excellent opportunity to ~~trash-talk~~ socialize with fellow local racers in the off season.

From November through March, the Kentuckiana Sim Racing League will host a 16 race championship series featuring 2 distinct car classes with trophies awarded to the top finishers. Races are held Sundays at 7PM with breaks for various local track events and holidays. To join in all you need is a basic Playstation 4 and a copy of Gran Turismo Sport. Members are welcome to compete with any 'rig' they choose, from the standard gamepad up to a full sim racing cockpit but most choose to utilize something in between (Last season's winner typically races from a Walmart camping chair with his wheel clamped to a TV dinner tray.

For more information, including the complete schedule and rules, visit the Kentuckiana Sim Racing League's Facebook group page.

-Cody Willet



## How to lose to \$100K Supercars with basic hand tools

*by Andrew Scott*

First, a brief history on my involvement in the Optima Search for the Ultimate Street Car series:

Back in 2015, my friend Brian Mason sent out a feeler to our local SCCA region about the Optima USCA event that was coming to NCM that year. At the time, my car was not in the kind of shape to undertake track work, so I didn't sign up. But I researched the series, and decided it was worth trying. I spent the winter prepping the car, mainly by replacing the radiator and fans, since I anticipated heat being a problem (oh my, how right I was). A year later, I took it to the 2016 NCM event.

It didn't finish day one. An electrical problem with the new fans left me with no fans. I had respectable D&E scores and mid-pack autocross times, but the car didn't even start the road rally and I ran none of the Sunday segments. I vowed to be back.

In 2017, I ran the Midwest Muscle Car Challenge, then the Optima event at NCM. I did really well, all things considered. 10th in class overall at NCM. The car finished the event, I was happy.

Then came New Jersey. I drove the car to NJMP. Thirteen hour drive with my tires in the back seat. The autocross on Saturday was a brutally competitive and close fought battle. Less than half a second separated positions 2-11 in GTV. I landed at ninth on the autocross portion. I also got one Speed Stop run in on Sunday. But during my second track session, I spun a rod bearing. I lucked into a spot on a friend's trailer and got the car home.

After that event, I looked back at my previous events and decided, "I can do this."

I couldn't afford the kind of build that would garner an invite by winning a single event, but I could afford the kind of build that would finish well enough consistently enough to get in to the invitational on points.

Over the winter of 2017-2018, I rebuilt the engine. I won't completely recap that build here, since you can learn all about it in my earlier blog posts. But, unlike my previous rebuild in 2014 after a simple head gasket failure, I went pretty much all-out. Starting with a quality forged crank and moving outward, I built an engine following a recipe that goes in 10 second drag cars, but instead of running it at 25-30 psi, the plan was to run it at 15-17. Instead of a razors edge 900hp, I settled for a dead-nuts reliable 450.

Additional preparation included an auxiliary transmission and power steering cooler, seats and four point harness, and additional sensors.

For 2018, I signed up for three Optima events: NOLA Motorsports Park, NCM Motorsports Park, and Barber Motorsports Park. These were the three events closest to me. I also entered the Midwest Muscle Car Challenge, and I won a two-day track event from the Kentucky Porsche Club. The SCCA Time Trials Nationals at NCM would close out my year. All of this was to compete and develop the car. As it turns out, I would need all of the events to get across the finish successfully. Here's a (very) brief synopsis of the track events of 2018:

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# Blue Grass MOTORSPORT

*Built on Performance*

## Thank you to our Title Sponsor!

Bluegrass Motorsports has returned as the title sponsor of the KYSCCA 2018 Solo Series. If you're in the market for a fine automobile, please support our sponsor. [Contact Chris Evans for further details.](#)

Beyond providing monetary consideration, Bluegrass Motorsports also donated a 2 day PCA Drivers Experience at Putnam Park. We would like to Congratulate Andrew Scott for winning this awesome prize at our 2017 Awards Banquet.



This prize is awarded to a solo class winner at the year-end banquet by way of a random drawing, must be present to win. 2018 is a new season and another chance to win this awesome prize.

[www.bluegrassauto.com](http://www.bluegrassauto.com) • [www.pca.org/driver-education](http://www.pca.org/driver-education)

# Private, Long-Term Lease Garages coming to NCM



**\*\* COMING SOON - SUMMER 2018!! \*\***

Private, long-term lease garages will be available for rent at the NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, KY. Limited space available.

To secure your garage, or for more details and pricing, contact Mitch Wright at (270) 777-4508 [mitch@motorsportspark.org](mailto:mitch@motorsportspark.org)

Layout not yet finalized. Floor plan is modular, and square footage can be determined based on renters' needs.

Perfect for the track day customers looking for a place to keep their track car and supplies; the Corvette owner wishing to leave their car in Bowling Green for use at Corvette events; the customer looking for a secure facility to keep their prized possessions; and the business looking to monetize the space by providing services.

#### Pricing:

- 390 sq. ft. \$488/month
- 595 sq. ft. \$745/month
- 1,198 sq. ft. \$1490 / month

#### Lease Terms:

- Starting with a 3-year lease commitment but terms are negotiable. Payment plans available.



## MEMBER MEETINGS

DECEMBER 6TH • 7:00PM  
TBD

## BOARD MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 28th • 7:00PM  
TBD



Current membership is 248

KYSCCA would like to wish a Happy Birthday to our members celebrating November Birthdays!

Rodney Wise  
Sonny Colston  
Edward Cooke  
Kenneth Pierce

Richard Sinnock Jr.  
David Melton  
Andrew Scott  
Matt Fowler  
Bridget Csizmar  
John Willett  
Jessie Voss  
Josh Murphy  
Johnathan Harris  
Jason Wise  
Kegan Cain  
Cole Wilkinson

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