



Central Florida Region SCCA

Solo Program Update

December 2011

Chuck Lutz, CFR Solo Chairman



Hello all and Happy Holidays! I want to start off by congratulating Art Trier for being nominated and selected as the 2011 Solo Worker of the Year. Art has been and continues to be a great asset to the CFR Solo program. Art is our Chief Safety Steward as well as our Equipment Chief. He ensures we have working equipment to run our events and that the equipment makes it to every event. He is usually the first one on site (with the SCCA truck) and the last one to leave, ensuring our sites are secured. He makes sure we have well trained Solo Safety Stewards and acts as the heat safety steward whenever we need him. Art does ALL of this for us even though he has retired from driving! The next time you see Art, please join me in expressing your appreciation for his efforts that enable all of us to enjoy our sport.

Schedule & Sites

I've been getting many inquiries about the 2012 schedule so hopefully this newsletter has all the information you have been looking for! The schedule has been a challenge this year. Our goal as stated in previous newsletters was to expand our sites on both coasts and provide a good mix of new and current sites for 2012. In pursuing this endeavor, we have encountered some roadblocks that have not made it easy to make this happen. For instance we had planned to run many more events at the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) this season, but unfortunately the site is unavailable until the latter half of the year. Therefore we will be using the Geneva site for those dates that were previously planned as OCCC dates. We are still working to confirm the OCCC dates for the second half of the year so those will be shown as tentative in the schedule.

Also, due to complications with the West Coast organization (detailed below), we can only commit to two Brooksville dates at this time. These dates are also marked tentative in the schedule because we have been unable to confirm with the Brooksville airport due to holiday vacations. To have more events at Brooksville or other West Coast sites, we need volunteers. If think you can step up to help make that happen, please contact me ASAP (solo@cfrscca.org). If we can get a group of volunteers to help with key event positions, we may be able to add more West Coast events this season.

On a positive note, we do have one new site to run this season. We will be holding two events at the European Rally School (ERS) track in Starke, FL. We will be using a portion of the main road-course circuit (NOT the kart track), so it should be a lot of fun. These events will be held in conjunction with the Buccaneer Region SCCA club and will be points events for both clubs. More details will be provided when we create the entries on DLB Racing.

For those wondering about Palm Bay, I did inquire about running at the driving pad site again but was told by BCC that it is no longer available for outside use. BCC also said that their parking lots are no longer in good enough shape to support running events there either. Other new sites we've been trying to get into just have not materialized as we had hoped, but we will continue to explore these. I am open to suggestions for new sites anywhere, so if you know of one and have a point of contact for that site, please let me know.

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The schedule as it sits right now is shown below. Some dates or sites may change depending on OCCC availability and what happens with the West Coast groups. Also if we get new sites during the year we may swap venues or add special events to give them a try. Make sure you look at the schedule on <http://cfrsolo2.com> often to check for updates. The 2012 Class Championship rules are TBD and will be posted later.

2012 Tentative Schedule

1/14/2012	Geneva - Practice
1/15/2012	Geneva - Points
1/29/2012	Deland - Practice
2/5/2012	Brooksville (Tentative) - Points
2/26/2012	Geneva -Points
3/18/2012	European Rally School (ERS) - Points
4/1/2012	Geneva - Practice
4/22/2012	Deland - Points
5/5/2012	Daytona - Practice
5/6/2012	Daytona - Points
5/20/2012	Geneva - Points
6/17/2012	Deland - Points
7/15/2012	OCCC (Tentative) - Points
8/19/2012	Geneva - Points
9/16/2012	OCCC - Points
9/29/2012	Daytona - Practice
9/30/2012	Daytona - Points
10/14/2012	Brooksville (Tentative) - Points
10/27/2012	OCCC (Tentative) - Points
11/11/2012	European Rally School (ERS) - Points
12/9/2012	Geneva - Practice

2012 Fees

Though our costs to SCCA increased again for 2012, we are going to hold the fees firm for this coming season at \$30 for members and \$45 for non-members. Remember to tell your non-member friends that they can recoup their \$15 weekend membership fee by joining the SCCA using their weekend membership paperwork. Joining in this way gives them a \$15 discount per weekend memberships paid (up to two weekends within a 60-day period).

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West Coast Group (From Jerry Hicks – acting West Coast Coordinator)

Well, as with many things in life, we face changes both for the better and for the not-so-much. I've just entered one of the latter in that changes to my job responsibilities will not allow me to hold the position of West Coast Coordinator. Not so much as "won't allow" as "will prevent". I have way more responsibilities now and the same amount of hours in a day in which to handle them. I will conduct the West Coast organizational meeting on December 18th and will always help in any way I can while at whatever meets I can attend, but to think I can give the coordinator's position the attention it deserves and requires would be foolhardy.

Please be thinking about someone who can fill the position, and keep West Coast SCCA Solo alive and kicking. It might be that a couple of people can step up and split the work or some other arrangement. My sincerest apologies for the false start but believe me...I didn't see this coming.

Our meeting on December 18th, while not well-attended at all, did get some issues settled. Present were Scott Wheeler, Dave Welsh, CFR solo chair Chuck Lutz, myself, and CFR Assistant Regional Executive Lee Hill.

After looking at the attendance of the meeting and discussing the future of West Coast Solo events, it was decided that a limited schedule would be run over here. There will be one event in February and another in October, the exact dates and locations of which will be published once Chuck confirms with the site. We're looking at our usual location of Brooksville for these two events. Scott and Mary Wheeler will assist with course lay-out and construction, Dave and Judy Welsh-who had already volunteered to run registration and timing/scoring- will act as west coast coordinator for those two events. The rest of the dedicated positions will be filled by east coast folks just for these two events. I will get trained in the work of safety steward and we need a few others to step forward and take it as well. This is formal training and is VERY important from the very early stages in course design up through the end of each event and the site is vacated. When we have enough interested persons to form a class, we will hold a training class to get folks trained and on the path to becoming Solo Safety Stewards.

Again, we just didn't have the turn-out of people who want to fill the formal positions required to run solo events, and that's what's keeping the West Coast Solo schedule to two events. Chuck has a proposed CFR solo schedule and it will be posted as soon as the sites and dates are confirmed, so watch for that. There are events planned for the usual places in Deland, another two in Daytona, and more at the OCCC site we used for the first time just recently. Everybody likes Daytona, and I don't know about you, but OCCC Sunday was the most fun I've had in the four years I've been doing this.

If it should happen that more people come forward and actually ask for and come to an organizational meeting for more west coast events, we can re-visit the west coast schedule. Until then, however, we remain at two events here and the rest will be east of here.

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Spreading the Word

Judging by the new faces at the last few events in 2011 and the emails and phone calls I've received, I believe the word of our existence is spreading. However we need to keep it up!

If you have co-workers, neighbors, friends that may be interested, bring them out! We have some good programs to help get and retain new members. First, for any non-members who attend our events, the Weekend Membership fee they pay can be fully applied toward an SCCA annual membership, so effectively they get that money back. Second, new members are entitled to a new member event card which is a buy 3 get the 4th free deal. Also, those who are under 25 are entitled to a discounted "First Gear" SCCA membership that is only \$45. So spread the word!

Don't forget about our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/CFRSolo2>). Be sure to use it to share photos, videos, and links and it's a great place to ask questions. I will see all posts so feel free to ask away on the page because the information will most likely benefit everyone.

Wrap-up

Thanks for making it to the end of my newsletter! Hopefully all this information was helpful to you. If you have any suggestions, questions, need for data that I'm not covering, or **want to volunteer** (hint, hint, hint), please email me at solo@cfrrcca.org.