

I have been to two face-to-face Board meetings and one short conference call so far. This is going to be an interesting three years. I want to thank you for your trust in voting for me and I will try my best to do the right thing by the Club and Great Lakes Division. Please don't be shy, I can be reached at [mmerideth@comcast.net](mailto:mmerideth@comcast.net) and I want to hear your opinions and issues. I cannot be everywhere at all times and don't claim to know everything.

As you probably hear from the National Convention, SCCA did not have a money-losing year in 2008. It was not a great year but cost were managed and the Club Office did a great job managing the budget. A bidding process was used for insurance and an approximately 30% reduction in premium was secured for 2009. Insurance cost for events was lowered across the board with Solo getting the least percentage reduction due to outstanding risks associated with Solo.

Some have asked what that really means and I will try to explain a little. There are a few cases still outstanding from Solo accidents. I really cannot go into open cases but you will be seeing in the near future some discussion on closed cases to help Safety Stewards and provide historical case studies for teaching. It has been recognized there is a vacuum of data and, as with all vacuums, something will fill it. The short answer is recently there have been cars hitting people at Solo events. This must stop. There seems to be a problem with cars out of control in the finish area and a lack of runoff area at the finish. Special attention is need to both worker and spectator areas around the finish.

At the National Convention there was much talk of a rules season for Road Racing. There is a plan being worked on for the 2010 season and I think you will be seeing less churn on rules in 2009 in preparation of 2010.

Eric Prill and the marketing folks in Topeka are working on some packages to help the Regions market to local sponsors. Watch the web for more information.

The 2009 budget was set assuming a challenging year. One of the things I have learned (that I never really thought about before) was how much the membership fee income drives the budget of SCCA. Getting more members helps our Club in a very real way. Invite your friends!

In a tight economy such as our current one, being customer friendly is critical to our success. Help out the new person and make them feel part of the group.

Thanks for your time and trust. See you at the races! ☺

Marcus E. Merideth

Area 4 Director SCCA