

DRIFTING

DES MOINES VALLEY REGION
of the Sports Car Club of America

JANUARY 2024



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The logo for Urban Alarm Services, Inc. is a circular emblem. Inside the circle is a simple line drawing of a house with a chimney and a window. A dragon is depicted breathing fire onto the roof of the house. The dragon's body is coiled around the bottom and right sides of the house. The dragon's head is at the top, with its mouth open, breathing fire. The dragon's tail is at the bottom right, with a flame-like tip. The entire scene is enclosed within a circular border.

2024 Time Trials Schedule

June 1-2 Ozarks
July 6-7 High Plains
August 10-11 Hastings
September 21 RPM
October 19 Iowa Speedway
November 9-10. Hallett (tentative)

Don't forget your wrist-band!



Have you signed the WAIVER?

Did you sign the waiver?

Reminder: To be eligible for coverage under the SCCA Plan, one of the requirements is a person must have signed the proper event waiver release.

When arriving at the event, please remember to sign the waiver!

Thank you!

Now Online or on your phone!

Blast From the Past

Oh my gosh! TT at the Iowa Speedway again in 2024!!!



2023 SCCA Solo Nationals Drivers

Des Moines Valley Region was well represented at the 2023 Tire Rack SCCA Solo Nationals this year at Lincoln Airpark in Lincoln NE. The Nationals is a tough race to run as you only get 3 runs per course with courses very different from what we race locally and with very stiff competition. But it is an event that should not be missed if you love autocross! Well done DMVR, well done!

Alex Bronson G Street
Mike Bronson G Street
Tim Reinhardt Super Stock
Adam Walker B Street
Spencer Dewey C Street
Dave Eggert D Street
Chris Riester Street Touring Xtreme
Chris Miller C Prepared
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PYROTECT

DMVR Annual Banquet

Please join us at Christopher's DSM for our annual dinner and awards ceremony. Celebrate another season in the books and socialize with fellow DMVR members for an evening of festivities.

Appetizers will include Boursin Mushrooms, an Iowa Meat and Cheese assortment, and an Italian Bruschetta assortment. Dinner will be an option of prime rib with baked potato, parmesan chicken, Alaskan cod, or baked rigatoni. You will be able to choose between these options on the day of the event

When:

Saturday, February 3rd from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Where:

Christopher's DSM, 2816 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310

Price:

\$40 per Person

Please RSVP before January 30th 2024

If you have any questions please reach out to Chris Riester at chris.m.riester@gmail.com

Please note that if you have already contacted Chris Riester and made arrangements you do not need to sign up online.

The after party will be at Chris & Alison Riester's
6090 Nottingham Dr., Johnston, IA 50131

We will also have a few door prizes as well!

Please register online at
<http://msreg.com/dmvrannualdinner23>

FUNDAY SIT-DOWN

with John Haluska

I sit down with Solo Board Member and 13 year SCCA member Spencer Dewey and dish on Chevy SS (luv that car!) ND Miata (luv THAT car!) and all matters Solo!



John

So let's start off with what brought you into the Des Moines Valley Region.

Spencer

Clear back, I think I would have been just out of college. I lived in Ames at the time and had my 1988 300ZX and wanted to race it, so I went to look for an autocross.

JH

How did you know about autocross?

SD

I think I'd been in enough forums and stuff, talking to people and Internet groups here and there kept saying to come out and I found it and kind of kept going.

JH

So your first your first autocross car was a 300ZX?

SD

A 1988 Nissan 300ZX Turbo. I still have it.

JH

Wow.

SD

That first autocross would have been in 2011.

JH

Where are you from?

SD

I grew up in Iowa Falls.

JH

That's a lovely town. What do you do for a living?

SD

I'm a substation electrician.

JH

Substation electrician? So how'd you get started in that business?

SD

I went to school for electronics, automation and robotics. And my dad was a lineman for a number of years. And so going into the utility field was the the end goal and that's where I drifted to.

JH

Oh, very cool. So, what came after the 300ZX?



Launching the SS at Eddyville!



Mr Miata

SD

I had that for quite a while. And then in 2016, I bought a Chevy SS sedan, and that kind of took my focus from keeping the Z running because I had the SS to play with. And I think somewhere in there I autocrossed an A4 Audi my wife had. I never really set it up, so it wasn't as fun.

JH

Well, you came on my radar with the Chevy SS. I'm like, Man, that thing's really whipping around an autocross course, that guy must know what he's doing! That's an awesome car! So that has a magnetic suspension, right?

SD

It does have mag ride and I put Eibach springs on it, so lowered it down a little bit.

JH

Oh, you're cheating.

SD

Yeah. But it's OK, I'm running Cam. (lol) It's got long tube Headers. So it gives it that sound, too.

JH

And so then you got the Miata?

SD

Yes. In 2021, I bought the Miata.

JH

So what drew you to a Miata?

SD

I think it was 2020 and going to Eddyville all those times and Dan (Doyle) had his ND Miata and I just really wanted a car that's competitive and just do this, you know? Just build it and autocross. I tried to get it in 2020 and get it transferred in to buy it. But no other dealers would give them away. So I would have to fly to Texas to buy one. And in 2020 nobody wanted to get on a plane! So I went back and forth with the dealer for a number of months, and then it was like finally like, "well, we can just order one in December and we'll go from there". So I did. I ordered it and I bought all the parts to make it C Street legal beforehand. I had everything sitting on a table ready to go. So it showed up in April of 2021, I think, with a couple hundred miles on it. I cut the sway bar off, put the put new one on it and had the wheels and tires ready to go. Also bolted some Konis on it a few months later.

JH

When I had my 99, I got all the parts in at the same time. I had a 99 sport or Hard S or whatever they called it, I can't remember.

SD

Yeah, it was a fun experience. Even just to be waiting for the car. I got all the parts and like we're ready to bolt them on! I also got a muffler with like 100 miles on it. I guess one of the funniest part is on all the ND forums. People are trying to sell those things for crazy money and everybody just laughs them off the page.

JH

Did you go to Nationals in 2022?

SD

Yep, I did Nationals last year, a tour event at Lincoln and I did the MiDiv at Lincoln.

The MiDiv has a series, I think there's 5 or 6 weekends. And then the tour is like a National set up.

JH

Have you done a pro-solo yet?

SD

I've not done a pro yet. I think that would be really fun! It's just a matter of getting the extra time to go do one.

JH

How did you do at the 2022 Nationals?

SD

Not terrible. I was aiming for mid-pack and that's what I ended up with. I think there was 31 or 32 in the class and I got 15th.

JH

That's pretty good! What is the biggest difference between running nationals and going to a local autocross? What stood out the most?

SD

Um, it's very structured. And I guess just if you went straight to nationals, without even doing a local, you would be totally

lost because you have to know where to be and what to do, right? I like some of it. I like the structure, the grids. You've got a grid space, it's yours, that's where you go, no question, you know? And there's a lot of people I mean, everybody there is dedicated to actually doing this, not just, you know, showing up.

JH

So where do you think you're going to go next? Do you just want to continue with the Miata?

SD

I guess, as a year by year basis. I'm just going to keep going with trying to hit as many autocrosses and do nationals again and maybe hit a couple more tour events depending on how the year goes. At some point I might try to venture into doing the time trial stuff, but it seems like a little more of a commitment.

JH

I did a TT with Adam Walker in his dad's Spec Miata and I'm like, Man, you know, this is fun! I have got to get a race car again. But then when I got a car to do time trials, I'm like, well, hell, I might as well just race it. But I think TT IS very cool and gives people a chance to see if they like the speedway without the chance to get into too much trouble. You know, Midwestern council does what they call high speed autocross, which is basically the same thing. Do you remember Solo One? Do they still have Solo One? I don't know. But Solo One was on a track. So you're just competing on a track instead of on an autocross parking lot.

SD

I think wheel to wheel sometimes would sound fun. AND Grid Life sounds super fun.

JH

I got some coaching from Tom O'Gorman a year or so ago,

who has had a lot of success in Grid Life events. So what's your favorite car that you've ever owned?

SD

I don't know, but if I had to pick now, it would be probably the Miata. That's a car I just love to jump in and drive. Put the top down and go. And it's just simple. Basic. I guess it reminds me as a high schooler when I got my first car. It was a '91 Sentra with a manual. Not very powerful, but it was just get in it and go. And the Miata gives me that same kind of feeling, that same kind of fun.

JH

What's a car that you would like to own?

SD

I don't know. I guess there's a lot of different options for that, it's a hard question. There's a lot of cars I'd like to own just to have as a collector. But for some reason, some kind of Porsche strikes my fancy. There is something about the 930 turbo. Yeah, an 89 930 turbo. I'd love to have one of those. Although I'd have to deal with air cooled stuff. (LOL)

JH

I like an air cooled 911. I love the sound! Maybe it's just

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because that's what I grew up with. But I'd take any 911!

SD

Yeah, me too! (LOL)

JH

Do you have a favorite car movie?

SD

I don't...

JH

Have you ever seen a car movie?

SD

Yeah, I've seen car movies. (LOL)

JH

With a little girl, you probably watch a lot of Barbie life in the Dream House right now.

SD

Oh, yeah! (LOL) I guess it sounds terrible, but probably what got me into cars was "The Fast and the Furious".

JH

That does sound terrible!

SD

The new ones I don't know about. (LOL) But "2 Fast 2 Furious" is the one I really remember. And I'm like, oh, my gosh! Cars!

JH

When I was a kid, the "Gumball Rally" had just come out. I don't know if you ever saw that, it's a cute little, tongue in cheek kind of thing about the Cannonball Run back when it was illegal and all that stuff. So anyway, this guy I worked with, he and his buddies take his dad's Maverick out, like four kids in the Maverick and they're out just running around

doing "Gumball" stuff and they roll it. But here's the thing. When they roll it, it just scratched the roof, like a little tiny scratch! You couldn't even tell. Isn't that amazing? And they never told anyone. So car movies can be pretty dangerous in the hands of a 16 year old. Like me! (LOL).

SD

That's hilarious. We've watched "Racing in the Rain" and it's not a terrible movie and the "Ford vs Ferrari" was pretty pretty good.

Is there anything you'd like to discuss about the DMVR? What you like or would want to change or maybe your favorite moment or event?

Um, I don't know. I guess I'd really like to see us get a site that really works for us, to continue to grow and have larger numbers. I guess have a respectable place to have peace and autocross would be pretty fun. And maybe someday be able to have a MiDiv or something. But we'll never have a site that big. We just can't find a site. That's the biggest problem.

JH

So I think autocross has a, maybe not national level, but in the Midwest it seems like there are less and less places.

SD

Yes, even at a national level. Lincoln has a it's end approaching. They want to build a giant shipping center right on the tarmac where we autocross.

JH

What about cars you would like to own?

SD

Oh, I'm terrible with that because I'm always open to something. I mean, I want to someday just have a garage full of cars.

JH

Does a car ever catch your eye and you kind of think it's cool, but you'd never own it?

Like I see these new Broncos and I think, that's pretty cool. Especially if I see one with some nice wheels and tires. But I would never buy one.

SD

Oh yeah. Cassie wants a jeep for whatever reason and I'm like why. (LOL)

JH

I like a Jeep Sahara. When I see one, I start thinking hmmm. In white with grey stripes and some cool wheels and tires, maybe lowered a little and I start going down that road. I'm like, Oh, my God, what am I even doing?

SD

I keep thinking about buying a different truck, which I need something if I want to do more and pull a trailer and what not. But yeah, like where do you stop and what do you spend in wheels tires and your list just goes on and on. No, I want to do race car things, lol.

JH

So, I'm really enjoy driving your car and really grateful that you let me co drive. I tell my wife I'd like to get an autocross car but racing is so darn expensive. I daydream about getting an early Boxster. But they are not very competitive, then I'm thinking I might as well just get an ND Miata, lol. I'll probably get something after I sell my race car, but who knows when that'll be?

SD

I was thinking of that too, though. If I went the other way with a race car. Maybe buying an NC and doing something along the lines of the spec MX5. That would be super super fun someday and I think it's a decent series to get into without spending gobs of money.

JH

Anything else that we didn't hit on that you'd like our membership to know?

SD

I don't know.

JH

It's funny. When I watched your fast run from Sunday, when you go around the turns, you don't take your hands off the wheel. You don't hand-over-hand steer.

SD

So I did move my hands, though. I was off. I noticed that I was here and then in the slalom, I moved it back. Well, but I didn't go far.

JH

I never do that.

SD



That's just the way I was always taught.

JH

Some people grab the wheel and turn it underhanded, you know? And I'll say, what are you doing? (LOL) But I have no idea what I'm doing with my hands either, it's a subconscious kind of thing.

SD

So from when I started and then doing an Evo school and whatnot, it was like, no, leave your hands where they are. I guess what we're taught nowadays is you leave your hands right there.

JH

Interesting. I might have to give that a try. Many years ago I was helping a guy at the little go kart track in Marshalltown. So this guy goes out there in his Miata and he just twists the steering wheel without taking his hands off of it. But he needed more. And so I'm like, Dude, what are you doing? I mean like, do something. Don't just sit there like this. Right? And so I always thought, well, that's a funny way to steer car. And then I saw you.

SD

Interesting. It does work. If the turn is too tight, it's a pain because you've got to let one hand go to finish it and then do the shuffle. But yeah. Interesting. No, most courses on a national level, you never would have to.

JH

Finally, what is your biggest takeaway from the 2023 Nationals?

SD

I'd say my biggest takeaway is just having a good time hanging out with friends and like-minded people! It's a fun atmosphere!

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DMVR

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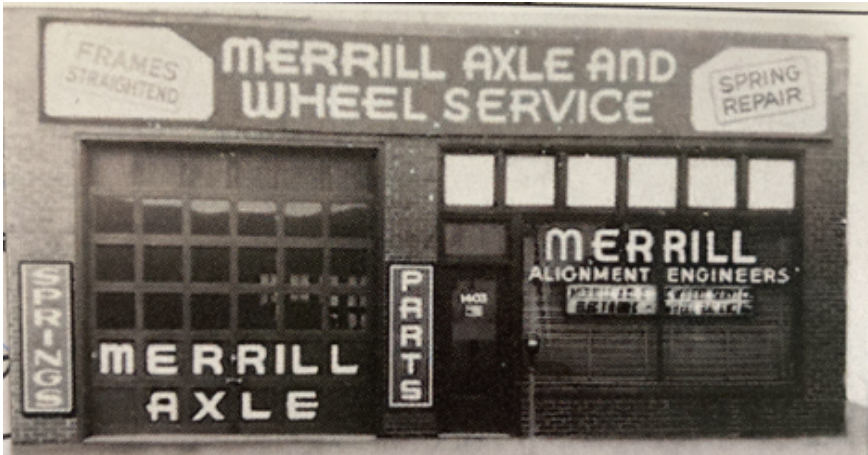
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