

Gary Pitts
Chairman of the Board
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Focus on Youth

When I look in the mirror, I sometimes wonder if I'm looking at a dinosaur. In the context of automobile racing, of course.

I like to build what I drive. I got into this sport more because I loved building than because I loved driving; that's rare today. I don't know why, but it is. I've built cars starting with an idea and a bottle of acetylene; the acetylene was half full and the idea was half baked but at least it was all mine. Maybe that's why I never made a noticeable mark on the racing world but the racing world sure made a mark on me. I still read Hot Rod® and the Johnny-come-lately Circle Track® because those magazines are for guys who know which end of the wrench goes on the nut and which end goes in the "nut's" fist.

When I started racing, most every racer thought the way I did. But just because I still think that way is no reason to lock this wonderful, dynamic club of ours into those dinosaur ways. Today it's all about spec cars, arrive and drive, and, Heaven forbid, Drifting! And, although I personally like to hang with the DSR crowd, and I'll defend keeping a place for those and the GT's and the Production cars until they plant me six feet beneath Turn 13, our Club is changing for the better by embracing the modern embodiments of our sport, like Spec Miata and SCCA Racer.

I, for one, do not look upon these trends as anything but the future of an incredibly vital passion for speed and competition reflected in the youth of the third millennium. I look at our members who are under about 35 and at my own boys, ages 14 and 19, and I know it's true and I know this Club is moving in the right direction, the only direction we can travel and remain relevant to the sport we all love. This is our club's just destiny. We have outlasted the competition by sticking to our principles of fun, safe, and fair and the racing world now comes to us. We occupy essentially all of the territory and we adjust our rules as required to identify the vital trends, to embrace them, and to lead onward and upward.

The SCCA has a glorious past and a radiant future; join me in celebrating the inexorable advance of our essential values and our shared beliefs on and on into the future.

I'll see you at the race track, the solo course, or the rally ground and we'll all do what we love best in life: drive those howling machines onward to victory.

Gary Pitts