**Quad Regionals – A New Driver’s Four-Leaf Clover**

By *RowOne*

Last year was my first year racing with SCCA and it was definitely filled with many memorable moments – both the ups and downs that are the very essence of racing. As a new driver fulfilling the requirements for a full competition license, I found the Quad Regional format, which is unique to Colorado Region SCCA, to be incredibly conducive for me as a driver starting out in this world of Club Racing:

1. I was (and still am) sharing driving duties in a racecar with a good friend. This racing format guarantees us 2 races each.
2. I had twice as many shots at finishing shorter races to count towards my full competition license. This was especially helpful when unexpected racecar woes came into the picture. My friend and I, however, completed all races we started in no small part due to diligent car preparation.
3. I had twice as many times going through all the preparations of a race (suiting up, getting in the car, pit and grid, pace lap, race start, race finish, impound, and work between sessions). It all became less overwhelming rather quickly.
4. With the absence of a practice session, more emphasis was on using qualifying to learn the track and challenged me to make the best of each lap. Subtracting warm up, cool off, and laps avoiding spinning cars I had on average 3 laps to put a lap time up on the board. This is similar to the top professional open wheel race series in the United States and made me feel like one of those drivers going through this qualifying format. I loved the challenge.
5. We used the time between all these races to improve the car and our driving techniques with more consultations.
6. With approximately 8 laps per race, I could really push the car hard with less concern of a non-finish.
7. The length of these sessions on the track are nearly identical to those I did in my racing schools and made me feel quickly at home with SCCA.

I am about to complete my paperwork to obtain my full competition license, but will still be racing in these Quad Regionals this year with my good friend as we continue to improve ourselves and the car. We will also be officiating the Majors as usual, both being nationally-licensed flagging and communications marshals. I cannot wait to get back to the track to see how the car will be with all the improvements we are making over this winter.

Thank you Colorado Region SCCA for Quad Regionals – they really do help new drivers like my friend and I come up to speed in a safe, positive environment.