



COMMUNICATOR – MARCH/APRIL 2026

Spring has Sprung

March came and went in a flash, for sure. We were busy planning the seminar during March, and the Board was very pleased to see everyone who attended our seminar – familiar faces, new folks – all of you were great to have along with us.

That is our quietest event of the season, even though it was stacked with lots of information and activities. We now get into what we're known for – providing great flagging and communications services at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course to the sanctioning bodies.

April has come and gone also, but with three LEC supported events – new event to Mid-Ohio, Lemons, then NASA, then FRP. All three events went well; all of your work is appreciated. Lemons was extremely happy with our work, as was FRP, and NASA is always happy with LEC's workers.

Let's keep up the momentum we had from 2025 and these first few weekends, and get better every day we're on track – whether it's Mid-Ohio or Indianapolis, Grattan, Nelson Ledges, Sebring, Daytona, et al.

Recap: 2026 LEC Seminar/Safety Day

What a crowded day that schedule was for seminar. We threw a mix of light and jovial, and serious and stern at you. I freely admit some things were extremely rough on the explanation, but I have heard some good feedback overall, and hope that you got something out of all sessions.

Great feedback from those who took part in the post-event survey, 78% of respondents gave the day a 5/5, the remaining 22% gave it a 4/5. Everyone said they learned something new, and expressed appreciation for the prizes, sessions, and food.

Major thanks to all the help organizing from the LEC Board members – Steve Carroll, Dylan Daugherty, Karie Garber, Ron Long, Don Spar, and Kurt Stevens. The welcome gift bags were stuffed by Karie Garber and Heather Clark. Major thanks to Kurt Stevens and Ed Arthur for F&C 101; Steve Carroll for CPR and the China Beach discussion with Don Spar; Tom Phillips for Situational Awareness and the Turn 9 discussion with Karie Garber; and Joe Hayes for the fire safety discussion. We also offer our thanks to Brian Sipes, Ben Valentine, Dave Schwall, and the rest of the Mid-Ohio team for allowing us use of the facility.

Michael Berchak was in attendance, and has made his photos available to you for viewing, at <https://www.berchakmedia.com/2026-Season/2026-LEC-Training-Day-Mid-Ohio/2026-Lake-Erie-Communications-Training-Day>

Password for access is **LEC26Learn**

LEC Awards and Incentive Prizes

The LEC Board elected this year to give the top 5 in incentive points each a \$50 Visa gift card as thanks for their participation in the season. The top 5 were: 1st – **Karie Garber** (88 points), 2nd – **Robert Andrews** (68 points), 3rd – **Wayne Chitwood** (62 points), 4th – **Jamie Scholl** (57 points), T-5th: **Alex Beale** and **Josh Scott** (47 points).

Incentive Prizes that were drawn for included Visa Gift Cards from \$75-\$150 in value, a set of Frogtoggs, two passes to Cedar Point for 2026, and a 55" and 65" TV.

Winners of the Incentive Prizes were: **Ed Arthur, Alex Beale, Wayne Chitwood, Ken Kotyk, Jamie Scholl, and Tom Roberts.**

The Master of Disaster vote was held during lunch, and the winner of the nose cone (of shame?) is **Jamie Scholl**

Our Rookie of the year for 2025 is **Samuel McMillan.**

Our Worker of the Year for 2025 is **Robert Andrews.**

Our Sam Oran Award winner for 2025 is **Wayne Chitwood.**

24 hours of Lemons – Mid-West Crisis 2026 – April 11-12

It was a late addition to the schedule, but you all responded well, and came out in force to support LEC and Lemons. Quite a lot was unknown and unsure going into the weekend, but everyone performed EXTREMELY well. No rust was found, calls and flag work were great all weekend.

Lemons does keep track of how many cars visit the judges that weren't called in by the corner workers. On Sunday's meeting, we were told Saturday had 8 missed calls – which we found out was a Record for Lemons events. 58 cars were targeted for black flags on that day, and a couple of dozen more on Sunday.

We had several new people on station for the first time this weekend: **Kaleb Putman, Larry Morton, Michael Studer, MacKenzie Hoose, Matt Thompson, and Kain Hubbel.**

Formula Race Promotions – April 24-26

Formula Race Promotions always has a good contingent of cars for this weekend, and great racing is had. Open wheelers all weekend, this year we had a good crowd of S2000s along for the ride.

FRP, Mid-Ohio, and LEC were very happy with the work all weekend. Radio work was fantastic, flagging and points were fantastic as well. It was a great weekend to have some new folks on board, plenty of learning was had.

First timer on track during FRP, is a new Mid-Ohio employee but had good fun with LEC folks, **DJ Abogast.** We also had new flaggers **Jeremiah Golphin, Paul Kling, and Steve Kling** with us for Sunday. Other rookies attending this weekend: **Matt Thompson, Kaleb Putman, Kain Hubbell, Paul Kilng, and Steve Kling.**

Radios at the track

LEC has rented 6 radios through CommDirect to augment the radios we get from the track. So far this season, we have only been guaranteed 12 radios for LEC and spares only come available when Safety isn't full up with radios, or other sanctioning bodies don't need track radios. For this season, these rental radios will only be with us from Super Tour through Cincy weekend. We may extend into August to cover the bike weekends and summer OVR, but we are not yet sure if we will retain or do a separate rental period for October.

We are working on getting in contact with sales at CommDirect, for those interested in buying a radio, headset, cord, or other accessories. Information on this will be made available once we have it.

Season-Long LEC Club Weekends Track Waiver

There is once again a season-long SpeedWaiver for LEC for our Club event weekends. Find it here: <https://greensavoreeracingpromotions.speedwaiver.com/tewqt>

Save the completed waiver as a bookmark and use it any time you need to get in on a club weekend.

A separate waiver link will be made available for the Spectator weekends, once I get those from the track.

OVR Majors / Hoosier Super Tour – May 15-17

The OVR Majors and SCCA Hoosier Super Tour come to Mid-Ohio this May, with around 200 cars signed up as of May 4. OVR appreciates everyone who comes out, and will have worker gifts and prizes available, and will have lunches provided each day for workers. I've heard that upgraded box lunches from the track commissary have been ordered. Sign up early!

You MUST be an SCCA member (full or weekend) – to flag this event. You MUST stop at the registration building at Gate 3 during its opening times to get registered. If you need financial assistance getting a weekend membership, consult with the flag chief. The SCCA membership comes with event insurance for on-track incidents.

LEC will offer 2 gift cards per day, to be drawn for a flagger at the end of the day – Friday's will be worth more than Saturday and Sunday's lot but expect no less than \$25 for any day. Anyone working a day and not getting a gift card will be put into a drawing for two additional gift cards. To be eligible for any of these, you must be signed up on the LEC MSR page for this event by 11:59 pm EDT on Friday, May 8, 2026. Must be present to win the daily cards. Presence not required for the weekend cards.

Sign up here: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/ovr-scca-hoosier-super-tour-f-c-mid-ohio-sports-car-course-lake-erie-728437>

Flag Chief is Jonathan Palmer (jpalmerjp@gmail.com, 740-323-6475)

Pre-Race information and updates on our website: <http://www.lakeeriecommunications.org/scca-ovr-majors--hoosier-super-tour-may-15-17.html>

NASA Great Lakes – Race to Remember – May 22-24

The yearly Memorial Day weekend event for NASA Great Lakes could still use some more support – 6 paid spots open for Friday, 3 for Saturday, and 4 for Sunday as of this writing.

NASA events are a good event to get some experience, lots of HPDEs, and the Thunder and Lightning race groups always put on a great show. LEC will pay up to 8 workers per day, \$50 for Friday, and \$100 plus \$13 for lunch on Saturday and Sunday each. If we are full up on paid spots, volunteering to work this event is still fully welcome.

Sign up on our MotorsportReg page: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/nasa-race-to-remember-f-c-mid-ohio-sports-car-course-lake-erie-communications-904918>

Direct questions about this event to Jonathan Palmer (jpalmerjp@gmail.com, 740-323-6475)

IMSA – O’Reilly Auto Parts 4 hours of Mid-Ohio – June 5-7

IMSA is back the first weekend in June, with the Michelin Challenge, VP Racing SportsCar Challenge, Whelen Mazda MX-5 Cup, and Mustang Challenge. LEC is once again providing support for this event, and we would love to have you for this weekend. The schedule looks to be pretty easy, with some decent breaks between sessions.

LEC needs to prepare worker counts and have the worker list to Mid-Ohio at least a week prior to the event, so we are setting the MSR registration deadline to Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 11:59 pm EDT. If you must sign up after this deadline, please contact the flag chief directly. Remember, it is much easier for us to cancel you late than it is to add you late.

MSR Link: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/imsa-michelin-pilot-challenge-4-hour-f-c-mid-ohio-sports-car-course-lake-350225>

Flag Chief: Dylan Daugherty (dylanlecdaugherty@gmail.com – 419-544-2799)

Latest event information on the LEC pre-race info page: <http://www.lakeeriecommunications.org/imsa-june-5-7.html>

SVRA – Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio – June 12-14

SVRA makes its annual stop to Mid-Ohio June 12-14 in 2026, right after IMSA. No TransAm this year – they will be at Indy SVRA the following weekend. We will still have SVRA, plus US F4, FR Americas, Ligier JFC, and IGT. IGT gets a 1 hour enduro on Sunday morning, all other sessions are sprint race format.

Friday and Saturday look to be very full days, from 8am to 6:30 pm, but Sunday is looking like 8a-4pm. LEC will provide plenty of hydration, food, and snacks this weekend, and we need LOTS of help for this weekend. Like for the OVR Super Tour weekend, gift cards will be offered for each day of this weekend, likely to be a minimum of \$30 in value.

MSR: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/imsa-michelin-pilot-challenge-4-hour-f-c-mid-ohio-sports-car-course-lake-350225>

Flag Chief: Jonathan Palmer (jpalmerjp@gmail.com – 740-323-6475)

Dart Kart Club – June 19-21

Dart Kart Club is once again looking for additional flag marshals for their weekend at Mid-Ohio, pay will be offered this weekend – rate TBD, but along the usual lines of other LEC Pay days. Around 1,000 karts in attendance this weekend usually, running the full course, great racing, drivers off the ground in centimeters, not inches.

Contact Jonathan Palmer if interested in working this event: jpalmerjp@gmail.com 740-323-6475

IndyCar – Honda Indy 200 – July 3-5

The biggest event of the year for LEC, the Honda Indy 200. Join us for a great weekend of racing, celebrating America’s 250th anniversary. Mid-Ohio is planning a concert during the weekend, a movie, fireworks on Saturday night, and the golf cart parade, among other things.

LEC will have lunches every day, dinners Friday and Saturday, expect a Saturday evening cookout in the LEC campground.

Sign up early on our MSR: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/honda-indy-200-indycar-f-c-mid-ohio-sports-car-course-lake-erie-communications-230608>

Flag Chief: Jonathan Palmer (jpalmerjp@gmail.com 740-323-6475)

LEC 2026 Schedule

May 15-17	OVR Majors/SCCA Hosier Super Tour
May 22-24	NASA (PD)
June 5-7	IMSA
June 12-14	SVRA
June 19-21	Dart Karts
July 3-5	Indycar
July 11-12	Cincy SCCA
July 24-26	Vintage Motorcycle Days
July 31-August 2	MotoAmerica
August 8-9	OVR Summer Sprints
August 21-23	NASA (PD)
September 16-17	Put-In-Bay
October 10-11	OVR Autumn Classic

Other Schedules Around the Region

Lake Erie Communications continues to strongly suggest travel around the region, and nation to not only support those regions and events, but also learn and share the skills with others.

Michigan Turn Marshals

5/13-5/16	Formula SAE IC	Michigan Int'l
5/23-5/24	DRSCCA/WHRRI #2 Regional Races	Waterford Hills
5/29-5/31	Detroit IndyCar Grand Prix	Detroit, MI
5/31	OTD3	Waterford Hills
6/14	OTD4	Waterford Hills
6/20-6/21	Western Michigan - Divisional	Grattan
6/27-6/28	Race Weekend 3	Waterford Hills
7/19	OTD5	Waterford Hills
7/24-7/26	WHRRI Vintage Race	Waterford Hills
8/1-8/2	Race Weekend 4	Waterford Hills
8/14-8/16	VSCDA AuGrattan Vintage Classic	Grattan
8/22-8/23	Western Michigan - Majors	Grattan
8/23	OTD6	Waterford Hills
8/29-8/30	Race Weekend 5	Waterford Hills
9/12	Empire Hill Climb	Wilco Road, Empire, MI
9/13	OTD7	Waterford Hills
9/26-9/27	Race Weekend 6	Waterford Hills
10/04	OTD8	Waterford Hills
10/18	OTD9	Waterford Hills

Visit <https://www.michiganturnmarshals.org> for more information on these events.

USAC Flag Marshals

Events marked in Green are pay days for marshals. All events are at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Date	Event	Link
May 7-9	Sonsio IndyCar Grand Prix	Register
June 10-12	IndyCar Test	Register
June 18-21	SVRA with Trans-Am and FR America	Register
August 24	Honda Sports Car Test	Register
August 26-27	David Murry Track Days #1	Register
August 29-30	David Murry Track Days #2	Register
September 1-2	Joel Miller Track Days	Register
September 18-20	IMSA Battle on the Bricks	Register
October 7-11	SRO World Challenge and International GT 8 Hour	Register
October 16-18	USF Pro and Indy NXT Test	Register

Contact imsflagchief@ix.netcom.com with questions or for more information.

SCCA Volunteer Incentive Program

A reminder that the SCCA's Volunteer Incentive Program allows you to self-report the days you have worked any specialty, and in turn, you earn credit towards your national membership renewal.

Tiers for credit:

4-5 days worked: \$15 credit

6-7 days worked: \$22 credit

8-11 days worked: \$30 credit

12+ days worked: \$45 credit, recognition in SportsCar, and a special VIP ID

To report your credit, login to your SCCA account at <https://my.scca.com>. On the **My Profile** page, there is a My VIP Days section. Click "Add VIP" to get to the entry form. Pick the event date, then select from the list of tracks and eligible events that populates based on the date you've selected. Choose the number of days you worked and what specialty you worked, then click "Save" to finish adding the days.

Your credits should automatically apply in the shopping cart if you renew your license online. If you run into trouble, contact the SCCA for assistance.

You must renew your license BEFORE it expires to receive the Credits. The credits ONLY apply to the national dues, not to the regional dues.

SCCA Road Racing sanctioned events are eligible, including SCCA Pro Racing (TransAm, FR/F4 to name a few).

LEC Worker Incentive Program

For days you work for LEC this year, you will earn points to a prize pool we'll have at the end of the season. Points vary by event, rewarding participation in all volunteer events, weighted more heavily to the club events than participation in the Pro weekends.

You will earn points for each day you work according to the following schedule:

- 6 points: Vintage Bikes
- 4 points: FRP, SVRA, Super Tour
- 3 points: Cincy, OVR Regionals, IMSA
- 2 points: MotoAmerica
- 1 point: IndyCar
- 0 points: ANY day you work that you receive payment for, or limited participation

New LEC Members

It has been a while since I updated you on who has joined LEC as a Member, so here's a list of who has joined between April 2025 and April 2026:

- Dean Pfirman – July 2025
- Bob Lohr – October 2025
- Julia Kmiecik – November 2025
- Elise Dutt – November 2025
- Paul Radey – March 2026
- Ethan Hatcher – March 2026
- Kaleb Putman – March 2026
- Andrew Zuchold – March 2026
- Mackenzie Hoose – April 2026
- Michael Studer – April 2026
- Kain Hubbell – April 2026