**DRIVER OF THE YEAR 2015**

At the beginning of each season, usually in winter, the BVR drivers set out their goals for the year. Schedules are made, cars begin to be assembled, and drivers focus on what they must do to get that checkered flag. The decision definitely alters one’s day to day routine and make no mistake, there is usually great sacrifice that goes with this.

With that first race, many will revise their strategy. At the end of the season, we on the Board have to determine who will be the winner of the award, named Driver of the Year. IT has been a tradition to look for a winning season, with an outstanding series of accomplishments. This award honors dedication, skill and the ability to see the moment when you know the race is yours.

As a youngster our driver to be would be found at the track playing with toy cars, as the family was always at races in the 70s and 80s. He could be found in Dad’s race shop sweeping and cleaning tools. His Dad was running SCCA and IMSA and so there was constant work in the shop for our youngster. His big break as a driver came when he won the Kids Big Wheel Race at Blackhawk in 1981, remember when we did that on Saturday after the last race? In his Dad’ paddock area he would practice with his toy cars, hoping someday would be his chance.

But a strange turn occurred as he got older, our driver had a talent for baseball- a scholarship to Univ of Illinois eventually got him a MVP at the U of I. He was drafted by the Boston Red Sox for (3) years thru 2000. In 2001 injuries brought him home just in time to start working with real cars. Learning on a 1972 Corvette that his Dad acquired, his skills as a crew member grew. He had a very good coach who is still the Team Manager today. He shared driving with his Dad in T1 and GT2 honing his skills and dealing with the heartbreak that goes with racing. In 2011 our nominee became the sole driver and bought a new race car and this Corvette was campaigned for the last few years at all the Cendiv races, prepped at the family shop.

During this period he found time to buy two Miata race cars for a school project at Dundee High School, called the Race Car Prep Club. This program works with disadvantaged kids to teach them skills and is a model of community involvement of what a few people can do. Hats off to this team for that commitment.

Back to 2014, our nominee was dialing in the Corvette and gaining the finesse it takes to make a winning season. That season is this year, 2015, The year all this decade of effort was to come to fruition. Our nominee this year came to the tracks and was determined to win. He did just that, in the class GT2, running (7) events finishing first in all (7). He finished 1st in the GT2 class in Cendiv, finishing by a wide margin over the second in points driver, thus capping off a very successful season. Oh, by the way, that 1972 Corvette he started his education with – is now in the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green Kentucky.

For an outstanding year, we award the Driver of the Year to Jonathon Anderson.

Will you please come up.