**MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2018**

The Board each year seeks to give recognition that is due to the individual who should be called the Member of the Year. Think of what you value, were you to have to make the decision. We see what involvement does to motivate others and how contagious that is. The nominee sees what makes our region the club it is and shows that things can happen when regions work together.

The tradition of our region to honor one individual with Member of the Year goes back to our earliest days – some 40 years ago: a member named Greg Upstone who as his health deteriorated continued to serve the club to the end as he battled a fatal illness. This goodwill attitude that others see is the quality that some members show forth and what we on the Board look for when choosing Member of the Year.

Decades ago, some past Board thought it fitting to honor the commitment to our club that Greg Upstone exemplified. It is our pleasure each year to give recognition and say thanks for the effort that often goes unnoticed. We looked around and found one person who, for years, has devoted himself to the club, in many ways.

Our member started in Flagging at a long gone track called Wilmot, and joined SCCA in 1968. Over the years, we could find the person working corners, being a captain and serving as F/C chief at Cendiv and other events of SCCA including pro events. Throughout this time our nominee served on Club Boards and committees dealing with Cendiv matters. It goes without saying that our nominee would get involved when a need arose in the world of club racing.

In 1981 this person began working as a starter and would later volunteer to be Divisional Administrator. I can recall all the events BVR put on that we went to this person to get us starters for the race event, he always came thru for us, not easy when there were PRO events on the same weekend.

But along the way, another opportunity was calling, the Rally Program in SCCA. Our nominee and his wife participated in several and found it a great deal of fun. During the ‘90s our nominee put on close to a dozen rallies for the enjoyment of everyone in the various clubs. Recently he has started up the Rally program again in Cendiv enlisting the help of the three regions, called GOATS Rallies.

A Member of the Year is highly visible to those outside our group and so carries the burden of being an unselfish volunteer. This motivates others and demonstrates that to others in the club beyond our Division.

Proof of that is his winning the SCCA Starter of the Year - an honor announced at the Sonoma Runoffs this year.

We wish to thank our Member of the Year for all his efforts to BVR and SCCA, John Sutton.