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think about that. I'm just competitive," he says. "Then I get past the competitive part and realize what great social and family events the races are."

The Bertoks' daughter, 3-year-old MariKate, has been to every one of Steve's races except one. Mom even put on her helmet and competed in a race six weeks after giving birth. "We didn't exactly tell the doctor, but we had been to see him that day, and he cleared her for anything," Steve says, his hands outstretched and a "you-didn't-see-me-do-it" grin.

From NASCAR to Kart racing, part of racing's appeal historically has been the accessibility of its drivers. The Club Car divisions in which Steve races are no different. "If someone has crash damage, everybody dives in to help. It doesn't matter if he races in your class or not," Steve says. "The drivers are competitive. They're totally different people when they put their helmets on, but they would rather beat you on the track than off. That's what contributes to the atmosphere."

From a business standpoint, Steve's reputation and presence on the circuit have helped him cultivate more out-of-state sales than local for Panic. "We very much enjoy doing business here in the Midlands and would like to get more, but the vast majority is out-of-state with most of it in Florida." He looks to make his business grow overall. "More cars, more parts sales, more rentals," he says.

But outside the garage bays, the track also awaits. The new season begins in February and Steve, reflecting on himself and his racing team around the country, utters a similar sentence, "More checkered-flags, more trophies, more fans."

To find out more about Panic Motorsports, log on to [www.panicmotorsports.com](http://www.panicmotorsports.com). If you're interested in becoming a member or participant, find out more about the South Carolina Region Sports Car Club of America at [www.scr-scca.com](http://www.scr-scca.com).