

*Directly Duck*

April 2004

Well, members, let's get the BAD news out of the way right now. It will no longer be known as the Valvoline Run-Offs. What I learned out of the situation is that the contract was between Mid-Ohio and Valvoline. The track is actively pursuing new sponsors to replace Valvoline. I hope this comes to pass as I am concerned about the impact of this change on Mid-Ohio's bid for the Run-Offs, which goes out this year. The current Run-Offs contract with Mid-Ohio runs for two more years.

During this month's conference call, a vote was taken to remove the Fastrack news from SportsCar beginning in August. The vote FAILED, but it was close. Friends, this decision will be made soon, and it appears that it is not *if*, but *when*. The move will save the club forty thousand dollars a year.

The rationale for removing the Fastrack news is that seven years ago the club projected that 77% of the members had access to a computer. Now they figure that figure has risen to 97%. When the change is enacted (with a month's lead-in), you will be able to sign-up to receive Fastrack news by e-mail. If you do NOT have a computer or access, you can receive it by mail. The Club projects that about two thousand people will take the mail option.

In addition to the cost savings, you will be able to get the Fastrack news one month earlier, and the club will be able to implement rule changes one month earlier. For years the directors have been inundated with requests to make this change happen. At this point we do not know how this will impact the anticipated May roll out of the SportsCar redesign.

By the time you read this hopefully Kevin Poirier will have been voted onto the Road Rally Board. THANK-YOU Kevin for accepting the position, the Board will be the better for it.

So far this year, nearing the end of the first quarter, the club financials look good. With the Trans-Am deal coming on board even Pro racing is ahead of budget.

Sorry I could not find the time to make the Doo Wop Rally this year, John. But I promise I will make it next year! I will try to make it up to you this Memorial Day when we meet again.

Director Duck