

August 2004

All of our love and sympathy go out to Montana for Tom Masterson who just lost his wife Lois to cancer. Tom is an important member in this division and he is a keystone in NORPAC's success. Lois, a multi-talented lady whose interests included the arts and breeding and showing dogs, was a member of Northwest Region SCCA and the Big Sky Region of PCA. Their son, Tom Jr., is an active member of Northwest Region. Sympathy and love to you, Tom, Tom Jr., and all of your family from every one of us.

As this column is being written the search has begun to find a new director of Club racing. Phil Clarke couldn't pass up the opportunity of a lifetime. He has taken a job with NASA to run the visitors tour at Cape Canaveral. Best wishes, and good luck in your new job, Phil.

How does the "New Look" SportsCar look to you? The goal was to produce a publication that is newsstand-worthy to generate interest in SCCA (and new members) while continuing to serve the needs of our members. So far I am impressed with what I've seen, but I would really like to hear what you think.

Last month I outlined the problems with the Avectra software and membership renewals. After the July Board teleconference, the exact numbers are fifty-nine thousand plus members compared to almost sixty-four thousand for the same period last year. Everyone, from the Board to Topeka, is hopeful that these numbers will recover once the renewal notices are up to date. Much of this year's budget is based on projected membership growth in the range of ten to fifteen per-cent. So, as I write this, the financial numbers for SCCA Inc are *not* that good, year to date. Topeka has responded by delaying the hiring of new staff and cutting back on travel, etc. ProRacing is ahead of projected revenues for the year to date. Unfortunately Pro is still projecting a loss at the end of the year. Stay tuned.

The TV ratings for Mid-Ohio World Challenge (which was across from NASCAR) was a robust .4 which may not sound like a lot in the world of networks, but Speed channel is very, very happy. It outdrew last year's Mid-Ohio Champ Car rating.

The Kumho 710 tire has now regained D.O.T. and Board approval. The tire has passed independent lab tests ordered by the club. So the Kumho 710 is now OK'ed for Club racing and Solo competition. The "old" tires have a red dot and the approved tires have a white circle on the sidewall.

Enterprises have not drawn on the credit line they were issued back in December and may not have to. One hundred eight of the new Spec Formula cars have been sold. Eighty-four have been delivered. Enterprises will not take delivery of any more cars until the problems in the driveline have been resolved. With recent changes within the management of Van Diemen, and with the parent company, Elite Engineering, taking over the project and moving production stateside, everyone involved believes that this problem will be resolved soon. Otherwise, Enterprises are selling new SRFs and showing a profit.

The Run-Offs® host venue Request for Proposal has gone out on schedule to more than thirty race courses and the wheels have been set in motion.

Chances are, by the time you read this, you will have witnessed in person the Pro Miatas and World Challenge for yourself, and been impressed. Be proud of this club and be proud of being a member.