

February '06

Why should you attend the National Convention? Just one of the many good reasons is that by then we should have an answer to the biggest question currently facing the club. Another good reason is the Safety Symposium, which is always outstanding. Then there are the workshops, the opportunity to network and learn from other Regions, and of course there is Kansas City barbecue – which could justify the trip all by itself.

Speaking of conventions, the recent Reno mini-convention was a success on all levels. Once again, national staff showed up in force to spread the word and answer all questions. Margie Swanson earned a BIG tip-of-the-helmet for organizing the silent auction that raised over forty-six hundred dollars. Special thanks go out to all who rounded up the items for the auction as well as those who contributed items. I plan to use my Pacific Raceways test day coupon this June, before the NW Region double national. Congratulations to Big Sky Region for receiving the Directors' Regional Achievement trophy.

Peter Hylton made a thirty-one hour drive from Indiana to give a special presentation on the history of racing. He spoke about The Brooklands in particular, and club racing in general. Humor is indeed his stock in trade. This presentation alone was the worth the trip to Reno, but the two-hour presentation by Dr. Bob Hubbard (father of the HANS device) was the whipped cream and cherry to a club racer in racing withdrawal. The mini-convention weekend is the fix to hold me until I take the track in March at Thunderhill.

On the profit and loss side of the business, the year-end forecast is for operating income in the range of \$110,000.

Membership income was up slightly in November, but is still below budget. Insurance income is also 5% below budget. YTD license income was down by 11%, but it is improving each month. Entry and registration fees are off budget by more than \$50,000. There were shortfalls in Solo and Tour entries; and cancellations caused by Katrina reduced Run-Offs entries by \$2,000.

Sponsorship is ahead of budget due to the Dodge partnership. Non-operating income is also above budget because of the positive performance of the club's investments.

Next month I will update you on the national convention - the Hall of Fame class of 2006, the Safety Symposium and much, much more.

Finally, a big tip-of-the-helmet to Tom (the elder) Masterson who becomes a forty-year member in 2006.

Duck-Out