

January 2008

Unfortunately I must start this column with an apology; I was unable to fly-out to Topeka at the beginning of the month for the BOD meeting. However, I was able to participate over the phone, so in a sense this column comes to you via long-distance.

In 2007 the club conducted six Drifting events in two Regions (Mid-South and Middle Georgia) as a pilot program. We are looking to expand upon that in 2008. Other things the President and staff are looking into for 2008 are: a possible streamlining or redesign of the CRB process; a unified system to manage event scheduling, event results, participation, registration (workers and competitors); a real time registration with links to registration and timing / scoring; and finally a two-year worker license. Also look for an aggressive First Gear marketing program.

The BOD hopes the budget for 2008 will permit the addition of a national membership position to the staff. If so, the first two projects on that person's plate will be developing financial incentives for regions to increase membership numbers and developing a military driving program for returning veterans.

The new year will bring a single national driving instruction manual, and possibly even an "Official" SCCA driving school. 2008 will also mark the first year the Formula Enterprise car will compete at the Run-Offs. I want to thank all of you who provided me with input on the twenty-four national class/GT 3 situation. Your input provided me with the information I needed to make the right decision.

I believe 2008 will be a bright year for Pro Racing. Bob Wildberger is the fourth president I have worked with in Pro and he is far and away looks to be the best. It is a testament to his abilities that he was hired a year ago, did not take the job until the convention, ran the year with a schedule that he inherited, and still ended the year close to breakeven. With 2008 being his first real year on the job with his schedule, expect big things. In the future, the club can may look back at this time and say this is when Pro turned the corner.

Not only does it look like Pro will have a breakout year, but the 2008 BOD also has that "new & improved" look to it. Phil Creighton, the new Area 12 Director, is a former head of the CRB. Phil runs a race prep / track service business out Georgia and brings a wealth of experience to the board. Jerry Wannarka, who was chief steward for the last two Run-Offs, joins the board to replace Brian Holtz who is termed out. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Jerry and call him a friend. The members of Area two will be well served by this much respected man. In his wisdom, our chairman has kept Brian on the Pro racing board to keep this magic going for Inc.

Congratulations to R.J. Gordy on his election to Chairman. It goes without saying that having a chairman from this division is not a bad thing. If R.J. can bless this club with just half the magic that SFR experienced under his reign, the future is indeed bright for all of us.

Not to be forgotten, Ms. Lisa Noble the former national administrator for driver licensing, joins the board as the Area 6 Director. I got to know Lisa through driver licensing business. The Board and the Club will be the better for having her. Expect big things from her in the future. Like Mike Sauce, Lisa is a nationally recognized racer, known from coast-to-coast. The Board can never have too many of those members.

Thanks again go out to R.J. for appointing me liaison to the COA, RRB, RXB, and the Foundation and Pro Racing boards, as well as another appointment to the race track committee.

With deepest regrets I will not be in Reno next week for the NORPAC mini-convention for the first time in nine years. I ask for your understanding that circumstances require me to be at home at this time.

I do plan to attend the national convention in San Antonio, and expect to return with enough news to fill at least the next three full sized columns.

Happy Holidays and A GREAT New Year to all.

Duck-Out