

June 2004

Well I seem to have skipped a month but with a recent board meeting in Topeka I have much news to share this month. First off it was called a Software / Hardware interface problem all the members knew was that membership and license renewals took many weeks too long. The long and the short of it the national staff put in more than a few extra work weekends (BLESS them) and things are up and running again with the new Avectra program. We are hosting this software package in house instead of with Avectra at another location away from Topeka for security reasons. On the subject of security all of our records are backed-up more than once a week and are stored securely offsite.

The Solo one move to being under club racing is still a work in progress; the name MAY be changed to time trials, stay-tuned for further developments.

The Run-Offs bid will be going out in June with an expected five to six track responding. If all goes as planned the bid and it's baseline requirements will hopefully be up on the new SCCA web page for all to view. Speaking of the Run-Offs the new advertising campaign is, "Anyone can Race. . . Only the Best can Race here. Where will you be?"

The club may well be involved with the "All Roads lead to Disneyland" rally hopefully I can fill-in the details in a future column.

The first step of the SportsCar remodel has started with Peter Stark being named associate editor.

The club is looking to strengthen our ties with the formula SAE college project. This gives the club a high profile presence on campus with engineering students. One of the Oregon region novices of the year and last years RoseCup SRF winner came from these ranks.

The board voted a line of credit to Pro-racing at our last meeting. This move was two-fold: first it pays-off all of Pro's short term debt to SCCA Inc and secondly it gives an independence to Pro to run it's own affairs without coming to SCCA Inc for money every year due to the front end cost nature of the pro business which forces pro into a negative cash flow as revenues trickle in over the year. Also SCCA Inc will take the money from the loan repayments and place them back into our investment portfolio where the return is expected to be many points higher than the prime plus one rate we got from pro.

It looks like funding for this year's safety symposium may well come from a German based domestic car builder. The target date for the tape and or DVD is hopefully June first. Trust me I will be in touch with every region in area 13 when they come in. As I have said before this symposium is a very eye-opening, educational and much see event. On the subject of future safety symposiums Barb told the board this is the schedule: 2005: Driver Preparedness and Personal Safety (physical fitness, sport psychology, protective apparel). 2006: Safety: What have we learned so far? A look back since 2004 to see what the industry has learned, how we've implemented what we've learned, and new standards coming our way. 2007: Safety in Vehicle construction (chassis, roll cage, welds). While on the subject of the safety symposium at the convention the board is looking into the possibility of moving the site from K.C. (to maybe, hopefully somewhere warmer<G>).

During one of the recent work weekends most of the national staff took in a race (during a break) at the neighboring Heartland Park track, unfortunately they witnessed a fatal accident to a club racer there. All

came away moved, saddened but wiser to this passionate pursuit of ours. Sadder but wiser they have come to respect this sport even more. In short they are more dedicated and committed to the membership than before.

Just after the board meeting national hosted the second annual Partner Roundtable with more than forty manufacturers represented. This is an opportunity for them to meet with the staff and the Club racing board to learn about the direction and strategic long range plans of our club and their possible role in helping us meet those goals.

In closing I would like to give a tip-of-the-helmet to the board of NORPAC to donating \$1000 to the SCCA foundation to help fund this rewarding research behind the safety symposiums and the other cutting edge classes that they are putting on throughout the country for our club.