

March 2005

You know that you have not spent enough time at the Solo pad when Jim Daniels looks like Ron Bauer to you! I promise to be more than a guest this year. The melding of Solo One into Club Racing is now complete with the passage of the rules package at the recent board meeting. Rules governing hill climbs and high performance driving are also included in this package

Did you know the SCCA has a membership discount for the "ACTIVE" military? If you know someone who falls into that category, contact national.

Just when it looked like all three companies in this club would turn a profit for 2004, an accounting error was found in ProRacing. A double booking for a constituency payment meant a loss of \$42K instead of a profit of \$42K. But fear not. This is still a swing of over \$350k in one year for ProRacing. They should be commended for this. Enterprises turned a profit of around \$38K; Director Andy Porterfield, who has all but taken over day-to-day operations of this subsidiary, has earned a tip-of-the-helmet for this.

Speaking of Enterprises, Jim Dickson, the longtime face of Enterprises, has retired and has well earned another tip-of-the-helmet for his hard work in restoring faith and belief in this company. Thank you, Jim! As this is typed, the plan is to test three types of Yokohama tires in the next few weeks to find a replacement for the 048 spec tires. I am told that Enterprises will also test three brands of tires (including one very popular with the Spec Miata crowd) in case a suitable Yokohama replacement cannot be found.

There will NOT be an exhibition spec miata race at this years Run-Offs.

Before I get too far away, SCCA Inc. turned a profit of \$42k for this year, which is good considering the \$105K 'hit' in the performance rally dept and TV package. The budget also anticipated a 5% increase in membership, and instead membership decreased by close to 10%. The decrease was due in part to the demise of ProRally (the effects of which are expected to extend into the 05 membership year) and the slowdown in Subaru sales, which keys into the free membership for buyers program.

So ProRacing lost money (again). Before we get too far, I should explain that \$426k of the total operating expenses of the entire Inc. business are 'assigned' to ProRacing to cover. In other words, if Pro were to go away that would be \$426K of expense SCCA Inc would have to absorb, of which \$190K is an insurance payment. The World Challenge TV package brings the club-racing program coverage for the Run-Offs (a savings of \$350 a year).

But the financial year for Pro does look improved for 05. The way the money year works, many costs are paid up front for the year (notably insurance), while the revenue trickles back in over the entire twelve months. Last year ProRacing only sanctioned one race in the first quarter, which left a HUGE debit during the first quarter. This year ProRacing has three races sanctioned in the first quarter, which means there will be considerably more revenue to post.

All is *not* rosy in the world of Pro Racing. Consider that Open-wheel, the IRL, and ALMS do not have title sponsors. Even NASCAR, the flagship of the Racing world, has eleven (almost a third of the schedule) untitled (unsponsored) race events this year.

I hope you can wait until next month for a detailed discussion on Heartland Park. Ray Irwin track manager was on hand with a booth at national convention to spread the word about the five million \$ plus project that is going on in Topeka. Be excited; be VERY EXCITED! This is not only a big step for the club, but it should be a big step up.

Wow, it is no surprise that the 'New & Improved' NW website replaced Oregon as the winner in the Jumbo category. With Oregon winning in Jumbo for the Loud Pedal again, and coming in third in regional achievement, is this a GREAT area or what? NW Region also cleaned up at the Rally Solo luncheon, with the Wild West claiming the honor of Club Rally of the Year.

Reno Region is to be complimented on bringing home the first Directors' Regional Achievement trophy. Everyone looks forward to going to Reno every January (6-7-8 in 2006) to be hosted by Carol and Dave Deborde, so please you two take a bow.

Last but not least, Bernice Stanley, you and the Committee did it. You put on one heck-of-a mini-convention in Reno this January. And you all accomplished it in the face of the "Snowstorm of the Century!" One hundred thirty-eight members signed-up, and one hundred seven hardy souls made it over the mountain and into the airport (while it was still open) to have a memorable time. Another tip-of-helmet goes out to Margie Swanson for organizing an auction that raised nearly \$3k from thirty-two donors. This helped once again to keep this event in the black.

Until next month: Duck Out!