

MAY 2009

Hello and I am back from a brief hiatus. It is no secret that our financial times are troubled but the work that was started back when Steve left has positioned this club well for these times. By pulling the belt in over three years ago SCCA is ahead of the game. The fact that both subsidiaries are performing in the black without cash infusions from SCCA Inc helps the staff concentrate on the core business.

This year's budget was based on eighty-five per cent of last year's budget but even that is being revised downward for this week's meeting in Topeka. I will bring details to next month's column. Cash flow coupled with a reduction in the insurance rate (after it was "shopped" on the open market) has kept the club above water for the most part in the first quarter of this year.

This year to date national participation is off 1.43% or an average of 123.96 cars per event average. This tracks to 125.76 average car count for last year which was off 9.55% from the year before. Regional participation is tracking slightly ahead of last year on a per event average. Solo entries are off by about an average of five cars an event. Year to date membership is off two thousand from the same time last year. Competition licenses are off by around seven-hundred fifty for the same time last year. School enrollments are off by fifty-two students.

Our freefall in investments has stopped and SCCA Inc. still has about \$1.7 M invested.

I would like to take this time to congratulate ProRacing, which has not only turned its act around but cleaned it up. I was able to attend the first two rounds in Sebring and Long Beach where entries exceeded budget. The round just completed in N.J. and Mosport is also projecting not to hit budget but the WC Vision team projects a return to the black after Mosport. I cannot praise the Vision team enough for what it has done in terms of additional staff, marketing and TV. They have stepped the game up for World Challenge to be more competitive in the Pro world of racing. The first TV broadcast is set to happen tomorrow as this is written, during a Sebring meeting Tom Hnatiw assures me that the amount of racing coverage per event will be the same as the old format. By use of side-by-side techniques this will bring a more action packed hour of entertainment. Re-runs of broadcasts are set to start a week after Thanksgiving for a set time each week. Hopefully this will build the audience for the 2010 season.

Let's review what the Pro racing landscape has seen in the last year: Champcar, gone, AMA bought by NASCAR, Grand-Am rolled back into NASCAR, NHRA re-organized its show and with factory pull-outs ALMS is fighting for its life. So it is a testament to the management team that Bob Wildberger has put together that SCCA Pro is positioned well for these hard times.

The BOD is working hard with the CRB to re-establish a "rules season" where all changes are frozen after a set date. This is just one of the many things that are on the plate for this week's meeting. I am also looking for an update on Run-Offs TV coverage. President Jeff had a recent fruitful meeting during the Long Beach Grand Prix and I look forward to the updates this week,

I would like to take a second to THANK all who have supported me in these last few months. It only proves to me the "family" of our club and that is the strength I draw on.

Until next month:

Duck-Out.