

November 2004

Last month I talked about the Solo Nationals. This month I want to throw some numbers your way about the recently completed Run-Offs. Seven hundred thirty-two drivers qualified (up 11% over 2003) Forty-nine came from NORPAC (fifth in participation amongst divisions). Five hundred fifteen workers registered out of five hundred seventy who pre-signed. There were eighty-one steward actions covering sixty incidents (down 48% from '03), which resulted in thirty-six Chief Stewards actions and fifteen requests for action. Twenty-five protests were heard, which resulted in five court of appeals cases (see Fastrack). Safety reported one hundred six incidents, ninety of which were drivers, four crew and twelve officials. Five people were transported, with all being released.

The incidents broke down like this: fifty-six car-to-car, and twenty-three car to object. Turn eleven (even with the wall moved back) had eighteen incidents with thirteen in turn three (the Keyhole). Also we had thirteen incidents in the paddock. There were eight incidents in Formula Ford and seven incidents in FC and EP. FV had six. Tune-in to the Speed channel starting November 20th and see all the action for yourself.

Now is the time to plan on being with the gang in Reno this January for the NORPAC mini convention. A good time will be had by all, especially at night when we get together to bench race. If all goes well, the Safety Symposium will be playing on a TV throughout the weekend for all to see. The Symposium is comprised of six forty-five minute presentations. Barb Lundquist will be in Reno doing the all-important SCCA University thing. We are also expecting many people from the national office to be in attendance.

Speaking of the Safety Symposium, today I received what will be presented at the next national convention. Dr. Robert Cantu will do a presentation on sports psychology, incident stress and redaction by drivers. He will also touch on physical fitness (nutrition & exercise). Rich Shafer will talk about the effects of heat on the body. Norfleet Smith from Dupont will address the need for flame resistant clothing and the options you have to protect yourself from flash fires. He will also address the significance of suit technology and the impact of layering. Arnie Kuhns of SFI will address fire suppression.

Now to address and hopefully explain some recent BOD decisions. The BOD rescinded around eight of the items having to do with the prepared Solo II classes. The reasoning had to do with some of the conclusions and facts upon which the first vote was made. Upon further review it appeared the class was being torn down and would have to be built over from the ground up. Also many of the areas went to "open" rules, which roughly translated would mean "open your wallet" - in conflict with basic philosophy of cost containment in Solo II. Hopefully by sending these items back the SEB we can get a clearer picture and a better handle on the situation.

The second issue has to do with the discontinuation of Performance Rally. Hopefully everyone concerned has seen my statement on this situation. If not, I can send it along to you. It is my profound hope that the negotiations with Rally America will conclude successfully soon and this very meaningful program will not only go on but will prosper with them. Yours truly will seriously miss it. I hope to keep in touch with it by attending events.