

September 2006

First off I would like to start this column off with an apology to the Solo crew. I had every intention to make the national event at Packwood but a personal health issue kept me from keeping my word and catching-up with the group. The SCCA press release said it best, "Washington Women Dominate at Packwood." I am looking forward to 07 in Packwood. By the time you read this fall will be in the air and time to talk about the Solo Nationals. As usual I will make the second half of the event and look to track down and meet many Area 13 competitors. Like Christensen Colby & Nick Coate who represent SW Montana or Ty Jackson from Montana region. Or meet Stephen Hui to find out why he is in the Team Butt Heat car and not the Annie / Ron 944? But do not ask me whom I am cheering for in BSL Anna or Tristan. Or do I need to catch up with Glenn Austin to find out about his move. I also need to meet Kevin Dietz & Shelbi or Kyra Lein & Jerry Jenkins and try not to mistake Jim Daniels for Ron Bauer (again) and not to mention boring Karen in the lotus with my prattle. Before we go much further a fact not lost on this director is that NW region is the third most winningest region in this club when it comes to the Solo Nationals. (And not that far away from NE region in wins). OK that one region to the South (SFR) is the runaway leader in wins.

The first tip-of-the-helmet (in advance) goes out to Karen Babb for being one of the Solo National course designers.

The Solo site acquisition committee has put together a storyboard for the CD they want to include in the updated site acquisition packet. They will huddle with marketing to finalize production after the big events of the fall are completed.

Imperial Marketing is the new merchandising partner for the SCCA. Bear Promotion went through a recent merger and it was determined that Imperial had better capabilities (especially the internet) to move our merchandise program to the next level. Speaking of marketing the member benefit rewards programs now has 65 companies that now offer discounts to members. In early May 642 contingency claim forms had been processed for National Club racing and Solo programs. This compares to 320 for all last year. The breakdown is 405 club-racing claims (up from 267 for all of last year) 237 Solo and ProSolo claims (53 for all last year) have been paid out. In dollars this represents more than \$126k versus \$84K for all last year.

Sunoco has extended the World Challenge program through 2011.

The SCCA.com web site has continuous updates and tweaks to it and hope to embark on a total redesign in 2007. John Steflik has designed an all-new MX-5 web site ([www.mx-5cup.com](http://www.mx-5cup.com))

Some of the proposals before the BOD for the August meeting include an examination of the temporary / trial membership program (only 2% actually join. Possible new medical exam requirements for club racers (16-39 years good for five year / 40-49 three years ect. Also a revision of the competition license application form is underway. Also the option of a two-year license for national holders will be looked into. Stay tuned next month for the results.

As of the end of July membership stood at 52,448 compared to 52,459 at this time last year. There has been no significant change in the membership retention rate this year approximately 73% of the membership renews each year.

In Area 13 the regional numbers look like: Oregon the same, Montana down 9%, NorthWest down 3%, Arctic Alaska up 6%, Snake River up 8%, SW Montana up 14% and Big Sky comes in BIG with a 24% increase.

The 2006 volunteer participation numbers for the first hundred race events are in. Emergency is at an average of 6.5 (unchanged) workers per event. F & C is 23.5 (down two points); Course is 2.0 (down ½ point), Grid 5.6 (down .3), Paddock 1.1 (down .3), Pits 2.8 (unchanged), Medical 1.8 (unchanged), registration 5.6 (unchanged), sound 1.7 (unchanged), starter 3.5 (down .3), tech 6.1 (down .2), T & S 8.1 (down 1.4). The total average per weekend workers count is 68.3 down from 73.1 last year. The BOD and national staff have recognized this situation and will be addressing it soon.

National participation numbers are in for NORPAC's national races. For the seven races the averages are: SRF 18.57 then comes SM with 17.57 then surprise is FV with 9.71 then comes T-2 with 9.14 and FF with 9.14. The total national entries were 808 which meant an average of 115.43 cars per event. This makes NORPAC sixth in divisional participation. SEDIV was tops with 1695 entries for an average of 188.3. The national total was 9201 for an average of 151 but for the rest of the country there are still eight national events before these figures are final.

Watch for your ballots in the mailbox this October and PLEASE be ready to vote.

Until next month

Duck-Out.