

April 2005

I don't usually single out the special contributions to SCCA of one particular member because if I do, I necessarily omit mention of the contributions of other members and there is a numerically greater opportunity for members to be slighted than complemented. I'm going to accept that risk but mitigate it by pointing out up front that there are so many SCCA members contributing so much to our club that General Motors couldn't afford us if they were paying the going rates.

Dave Finch, six-time National Champion and defending champion in GT2 is the president of Raetech, an engineering consulting firm in Ann Arbor which specializes in cutting edge computer simulation and testing primarily for the Big 3 auto manufacturers and their suppliers. Dave's most recent contribution is both momentous and monumental: development of the single inlet restrictor (SIR), sealed air box system for equalization of competition in the GT classes which is similar in concept to the systems used by the FIA and other professional racing series. Dave's company has donated uncountable hours (\$'s) of dyno time, simulation development time, and the lifetime experience of dedicated professional engineers all to advance the Club Racing Board's strategic initiative to provide fair and equitable limited preparation options for GT class competitors.

As significant as is the development of an optimized SIR for countless GT-class engine configurations, Raetech is continuing this work by developing a specialized GPS-based data acquisition system to monitor on-track performance of racing vehicles. It is hoped that the information provided by the Raetech system, can be used by the CRB and their advisory boards to evaluate race car performance independent of the driver. This could allow competition adjustments based on reliable, real-time, real world data as well as provide feedback for further refinement of the system modeling equations.

The CRB, led by Chairman Kurt Weiss and assisted by the numerous members of the various advisory boards, pursues a continuing campaign to level the playing field in all our racing classes. This is difficult, time consuming work which requires expertise that would be unapproachable if we had to buy it but our members freely donate all this and more. All this to provide fun, fair, and equitable competition for our members!

Next time you see Dave at the race track, or any of our CRB and Advisory Board members, tell them how much you appreciate their tireless efforts.

See you at the track!

Gary